

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and scattered moisture were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Broadwater, Prairie, and Powder River counties noted that the heat and dry weather are continuing to take a toll on crop conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 32 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 36 percent in the previous week and 75 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 37 percent adequate to surplus compared to 65 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest has begun, with an estimated 5 percent of the crop harvested. Corn for silage harvest is progressing, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 37 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 47 percent. Dry edible bean harvest is moving along steadily, with an estimated 83 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 71 percent. Durum wheat harvest slowed last week, with an estimated 85 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 80 percent the previous week and 49 percent the previous year. Oilseed harvest continues, with an estimated 76 percent of flaxseed and 88 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 32 percent and 81 percent, respectively. Safflower harvest is estimated at 40 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 22 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Oat harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 91 percent. Spring wheat harvest is estimated at 95 percent complete, significantly ahead of the previous year at 77 percent, and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 93 percent. Second cutting of alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 95 percent of alfalfa and 81 percent of other hay harvested. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop is progressing well, with an estimated 18 percent of the crop planted, compared to 12 percent the previous year and the 5-year average of 21 percent. As pasture conditions deplete, producers continue to move cattle off summer pasture, with an estimated 13 percent of cattle and calves and 16 percent of sheep and lambs moved from pasture. Reporters continue to note that grasshoppers, along with the dry conditions, are depleting pasture condition and stunting regrowth across the state.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 95 | 90 | 89 | NA |
| Canola | | | | |
| Harvested | 86 | 74 | 68 | 85 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for grain | 5 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Harvested for silage | 40 | 34 | 37 | 47 |
| Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas) | | | | |
| Harvested | 83 | 73 | 71 | NA |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 85 | 80 | 49 | NA |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Harvested | 76 | 70 | 32 | NA |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Harvested | 88 | 76 | 81 | 88 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Harvested | 95 | 90 | 91 | NA |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 81 | 76 | 80 | NA |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Harvested | 40 | 30 | 22 | 32 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 95 | 92 | 77 | 93 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 18 | 13 | 12 | 21 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 13 | 11 | 14 | NA |
| Sheep & Lambs | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 16 | 12 | NA | NA |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for field work..... | 7.0 | 6.1 | 3.9 | 4.4 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 22 | 14 | 6 | 15 |
| Short..... | 46 | 50 | 19 | 29 |
| Adequate..... | 29 | 35 | 63 | 49 |
| Surplus..... | 3 | 1 | 12 | 7 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 22 | 14 | 7 | 18 |
| Short..... | 41 | 45 | 28 | 33 |
| Adequate..... | 34 | 40 | 62 | 45 |
| Surplus..... | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Poor..... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 20 | 22 | 23 | 29 |
| Good..... | 61 | 60 | 61 | 49 |
| Excellent..... | 18 | 17 | 11 | 12 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 25 | 22 | 2 | 16 |
| Poor..... | 34 | 26 | 7 | 18 |
| Fair..... | 29 | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| Good..... | 12 | 20 | 49 | 27 |
| Excellent..... | -- | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 1 | 6 |
| Poor..... | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Fair..... | 45 | 44 | 30 | 29 |
| Good..... | 51 | 52 | 63 | 48 |
| Excellent..... | -- | -- | 5 | 12 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 9 | 2 |
| Poor..... | -- | -- | 11 | 7 |
| Fair..... | 23 | 24 | 17 | 26 |
| Good..... | 61 | 60 | 47 | 50 |
| Excellent..... | 16 | 16 | 16 | 15 |

NA – not available

(--)- zero