

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 September 28, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and windy conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Sweet Grass and Valley counties noted that the heat and windy conditions are continuing to take a toll on pasture conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 38 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 32 percent in the previous week and 95 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 34 percent adequate to surplus compared to 85 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed slightly, with an estimated 10 percent of the crop harvested. Corn for silage harvest is progressing, with an estimated 53 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 45 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 66 percent. Dry edible bean harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 92 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 82 percent. Durum wheat harvest progresses slowly, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 85 percent the previous week and 54 percent the previous year. Oilseed harvest is nearing the end, with an estimated 83 percent of flaxseed and 95 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 37 percent and 91 percent, respectively. Safflower harvest is estimated at 50 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 32 percent and 42 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest began last week, with an estimated at 1 percent of the crop harvested. Second cutting of other hay is nearly finished, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 86 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop is moving ahead, with an estimated 33 percent of the crop planted, equal to the previous year but behind the 5-year average of 43 percent. The 2021 winter wheat crop has begun to emerge, with an estimated 6 percent of the crop emerged, ahead of the previous year at 1 percent and equal to the 5-year average. As pasture conditions deplete due to lack of moisture, producers continue to move cattle off summer pasture, with an estimated 20 percent of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs moved from pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested.....	95	86	76	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	10	5	NA	NA
Harvested for silage.....	53	40	45	66
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	92	83	82	NA
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	90	85	54	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	83	76	37	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	95	88	91	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	90	81	86	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	50	40	32	42
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	33	18	33	43
Emerged.....	6	--	1	6
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	20	13	21	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	20	16	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.....	6.9	7.0	3.8	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	22	22	--	11
Short.....	40	46	5	26
Adequate.....	38	29	78	55
Surplus.....	--	3	17	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	22	--	17
Short.....	45	41	15	30
Adequate.....	34	34	72	47
Surplus.....	--	3	13	6

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	--	--	1
Poor.....	1	1	4	7
Fair.....	20	20	22	29
Good.....	60	61	64	51
Excellent.....	18	18	10	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	25	25	--	14
Poor.....	27	34	5	18
Fair.....	35	29	26	32
Good.....	13	12	43	28
Excellent.....	--	--	26	8
Safflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	7
Poor.....	3	4	--	5
Fair.....	45	45	31	27
Good.....	52	51	65	50
Excellent.....	--	--	4	11
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	2
Poor.....	--	--	11	7
Fair.....	22	23	16	26
Good.....	52	61	49	49
Excellent.....	26	16	16	16

NA – not available
 (--) – zero