

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 OCTOBER 4, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Hot temperatures and dry conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state noted the warm, dry fall is stimulating continued grasshopper infestations, which continue to effect crop and pasture conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 28 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 38 percent in the previous week and 100 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 24 percent adequate to surplus compared to 85 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed slightly, with an estimated 18 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the 5-year average. Corn for silage harvest is progressing, with an estimated 70 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 51 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 79 percent. Dry edible bean harvest is virtually complete, with an estimated 97 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 89 percent. Durum wheat harvest is wrapping up, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 90 percent the previous week and 61 percent the previous year. Flaxseed harvest is nearing the end, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year at 42 percent. Safflower harvest is estimated at 60 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 39 percent and 49 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed slightly last week, with an estimated 7 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 4 percent. Second cutting of other hay is essentially finished, with an estimated 99 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 91 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop is progressing behind the average, with an estimated 50 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 46 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 63 percent. Emergence of the 2021 winter wheat crop advanced last week, with an estimated 22 percent of the crop emerged, ahead of the previous year at 7 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 24 percent. Reporters noted the winter wheat crop is beginning to show signs of drought stress and that moisture is needed soon to prevent further damage. As pasture conditions deplete due to lack of moisture, producers continue to move livestock off summer pasture, with an estimated 27 percent of cattle and calves and 30 percent of sheep and lambs moved from pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	18	10	--	18
Harvested for silage	70	53	51	79
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	97	92	89	NA
Durum wheat				
Harvested	95	90	61	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested	90	83	42	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	99	90	91	NA
Safflower				
Harvested	60	50	39	49
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	7	1	4	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	50	33	46	63
Emerged.....	22	6	7	24
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	27	20	28	36
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	30	20	17	43

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	6.9	2.0	3.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	24	22	--	9
Short.....	48	40	--	24
Adequate.....	28	38	72	54
Surplus.....	--	--	28	13
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	21	--	15
Short.....	61	45	15	30
Adequate.....	24	34	64	47
Surplus.....	--	--	21	8

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.....	3	1	6	7
Fair.....	29	20	22	29
Good.....	52	60	63	51
Excellent.....	16	18	9	11
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	22	25	2	16
Poor.....	21	27	5	19
Fair.....	42	35	20	30
Good.....	12	13	46	27
Excellent.....	3	--	27	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	2
Poor.....	--	--	11	8
Fair.....	30	22	17	26
Good.....	46	52	50	50
Excellent.....	24	26	14	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero