

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
 October 19, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and scattered precipitation were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Judith Basin, Roosevelt and Valley counties noted temperatures cooled last week and much needed moisture was received toward weeks end. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 23 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 18 percent in the previous week, and 97 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 34 percent adequate to surplus compared to 95 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed, with an estimated 32 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the 5-year average, and ahead of the previous year at 11 percent. Corn for silage harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 74 percent and the 5-year average of 91 percent. Safflower harvest is estimated at 80 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 51 percent and 61 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed well last week, with an estimated 36 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 22 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 41 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop continues to progress behind the average, with an estimated 77 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 74 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 84 percent. Emergence of the 2021 winter wheat crop advanced last week, with an estimated 57 percent of the crop emerged, ahead of the previous year at 36 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 60 percent. As dry conditions continue to effect pasture conditions, moving livestock off summer pasture progresses and supplemental feeding has increased quicker than normal. An estimated 49 percent of cattle and calves and 51 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, with 27 percent of cattle and 29 percent of sheep receiving supplement feed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	32	25	11	32
Harvested for silage	95	85	74	91
Safflower				
Harvested	80	70	51	61
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	36	22	22	41
Winter wheat				
Planted	77	66	74	84
Emerged	57	40	36	60
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	49	37	46	57
Receiving supplemental feed	27	15	7	19
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	51	38	38	61
Receiving supplemental feed	29	16	9	20

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.....	5.6	6.9	5.0	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	19	29	--	10
Short.....	58	53	3	23
Adequate.....	23	18	66	55
Surplus.....	--	--	31	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	14	--	14
Short.....	57	61	5	26
Adequate.....	34	25	74	52
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.....	1	1	7	8
Fair.....	16	20	23	30
Good.....	70	61	60	48
Excellent.....	13	18	9	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	22	16	2	14
Poor.....	24	25	4	19
Fair.....	39	45	22	31
Good.....	14	12	50	29
Excellent.....	1	2	22	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	2
Poor.....	4	--	11	7
Fair.....	28	27	16	24
Good.....	53	48	51	52
Excellent.....	15	25	14	15

NA – not available

(--)- zero