

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 7, 2021

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm 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. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of the state is under drought conditions, with 99 percent in severe to exceptional drought, unchanged from last week. Reporters noted the weather conditions last week were favorable for harvest, haying and the start of winter wheat planting. Reporters in Phillips and Wibaux counties stated the moisture received the last few weeks did little to improve remaining crop conditions and change the outlook for winter grazing conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 7 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 11 percent in the previous week and 26 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus compared to 39 percent the previous year. Barley harvest is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 89 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 78 percent and 83 percent, respectively. Corn harvested for silage continues as dry conditions persist, with an estimated 21 percent of the crop harvested, slightly ahead of the previous year at 19 percent and the 5-year average of 20 percent. Durum wheat harvest made significant progress, with an estimated 80 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 71 percent and the 5-year average of 68 percent. Canola, flaxseed and safflower harvest continue ahead of normal, with an estimated 69 percent of canola, 70 percent of flaxseed, and 30 percent of safflower harvested, all ahead of the 5-year averages. Mustard seed harvest slowed slightly last week, with an estimated 67 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the 5-year average. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is nearing the end with lower than average yields reported. An estimated 92 percent of alfalfa and 80 percent of other hay has been harvested, both progressing well ahead of the previous year. Small grain harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 85 percent of oats and 95 percent of spring wheat harvested, both ahead of the previous year at 82 percent and 83 percent, respectively. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop begun last week, with an estimated 3 percent of the crop planted, behind the previous year at 4 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 2 percent planted. Reporters stated producers are weaning and selling calves early due to the lack of forage. Dry conditions continue to speed up movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture, with an estimated 28 percent of cattle and calves and 23 percent of sheep and lambs moved from summer pasture, both ahead of the previous year at 9 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 92 | 87 | 83 | NA |
| Barley | | | | |
| Harvested | 89 | 79 | 78 | 83 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Harvested | 69 | 58 | 63 | 63 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for silage | 21 | 10 | 19 | 20 |
| Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas) | | | | |
| Harvested | 76 | 59 | 63 | 67 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 80 | 69 | 71 | 68 |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Harvested | 70 | 57 | 55 | 49 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Harvested | 67 | 55 | 65 | 67 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Harvested | 85 | 71 | 82 | 81 |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 80 | 69 | 69 | 81 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Turning color | 98 | 85 | 88 | NA |
| Harvested | 30 | 20 | 24 | 24 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 95 | 85 | 83 | 80 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 3 | NA | 4 | 2 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 28 | 20 | 9 | NA |
| Sheep & Lambs | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 23 | 15 | 10 | 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 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 6.1 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 54 | 44 | 16 | 28 |
| Short..... | 39 | 45 | 58 | 32 |
| Adequate..... | 7 | 11 | 26 | 37 |
| Surplus..... | -- | -- | -- | 3 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 66 | 62 | 12 | 23 |
| Short..... | 30 | 29 | 49 | 36 |
| Adequate..... | 4 | 9 | 39 | 40 |
| Surplus..... | -- | -- | -- | 1 |

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..... | 15 | 16 | -- | 1 |
| Poor..... | 20 | 18 | 1 | 7 |
| Fair..... | 35 | 37 | 21 | 26 |
| Good..... | 29 | 29 | 62 | 53 |
| Excellent..... | 1 | -- | 16 | 13 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 52 | 49 | 16 | 18 |
| Poor..... | 35 | 41 | 24 | 20 |
| Fair..... | 13 | 10 | 35 | 29 |
| Good..... | -- | -- | 23 | 27 |
| Excellent..... | -- | -- | 2 | 6 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 32 | 36 | -- | 4 |
| Poor..... | 45 | 38 | 4 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 23 | 26 | 51 | 31 |
| Good..... | -- | -- | 45 | 50 |
| Excellent..... | -- | -- | -- | 7 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 11 | 9 | -- | 3 |
| Poor..... | 16 | 16 | -- | 6 |
| Fair..... | 40 | 40 | 19 | 24 |
| Good..... | 33 | 35 | 65 | 52 |
| Excellent..... | -- | -- | 16 | 15 |

NA – not available

(--) – zero