

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 19, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry conditions persisted 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. Twenty percent of the state is currently under exceptional drought conditions, also unchanged from last week. Reporters in Roosevelt, Sweet Grass and Valley counties stated conditions are incredibly dry with no significant moisture events in the forecast. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were rated 5 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 4 percent in the previous week and 32 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus compared to 37 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest made minimal progress last week, with an estimated 5 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the previous year. Corn harvested for silage picked up again, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop harvested, slightly ahead of the previous year at 39 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 47 percent. Oilseed harvest is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 90 percent of canola, 91 percent of flaxseed, and 92 percent of mustard seed harvested, all ahead of the previous year. Safflower harvest continues to progress quickly, with an estimated 50 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 39 percent and 37 percent, respectively. Second cutting for other hay is nearing the end, with an estimated 91 percent of other hay harvested, ahead of the previous year at 80 percent harvested. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop progressed well last week, with an estimated 26 percent of the crop planted, significantly ahead of the previous year at 17 percent and the 5-year average of 15 percent planted. Emergence of the 2022 winter wheat crop started last week, with an estimated 3 percent of the crop emerged. Reporters stated that cattle herd liquidation has begun due to poor pasture conditions and high supplemental feed costs. Earlier movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture continues, with an estimated 40 percent of cattle and calves and 35 percent of sheep and lambs moved from summer pasture, both ahead of the previous year at 13 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested.....	90	80	84	83
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	5	1	5	NA
Harvested for silage.....	40	28	39	47
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	90	85	82	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	91	86	75	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	92	81	86	86
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	91	85	80	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	50	40	39	37
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	26	14	17	15
Emerged.....	3	NA	--	--
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	40	35	13	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	35	28	15	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.....	6.8	6.5	7.0	4.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	49	52	22	16
Short.....	46	44	46	31
Adequate.....	5	4	29	47
Surplus.....	--	--	3	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	65	61	22	19
Short.....	31	33	41	34
Adequate.....	4	6	34	44
Surplus.....	--	--	3	3

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.....	19	16	--	2
Poor.....	26	27	1	7
Fair.....	32	30	20	26
Good.....	22	26	61	53
Excellent.....	1	1	18	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	56	54	25	19
Poor.....	35	34	34	21
Fair.....	9	12	29	31
Good.....	--	--	12	25
Excellent.....	--	--	--	4
Safflower				
Very poor.....	26	22	--	6
Poor.....	56	48	4	5
Fair.....	18	30	45	32
Good.....	--	--	51	50
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	10	10	--	2
Poor.....	14	14	--	5
Fair.....	36	36	23	25
Good.....	38	38	61	53
Excellent.....	2	2	16	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero