

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 3, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry conditions and minimal moisture continued 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 severe to exceptional drought conditions, up 1 percentage point from last week. Twenty-two percent of the state is currently under exceptional drought conditions, up 2 percentage points from last week. Reporters in Teton and Valley counties stated temperatures have cooled slightly, with some areas of the state receiving their first frost last week. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 2 percent in the previous week, and 28 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 6 percent adequate to surplus compared to 24 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest picked up last week, with an estimated 23 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 17 percent and the 5-year average of 16 percent. Corn harvested for silage made significant progress, with an estimated 70 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 68 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 73 percent. Safflower harvest continues to progress ahead of average, with an estimated 70 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 59 percent and 51 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest has begun, with an estimated 6 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the previous year. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop progressed well last week, with an estimated 52 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 48 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 54 percent planted. Emergence of the 2022 winter wheat crop continues, with an estimated 19 percent of the crop emerged, slightly behind the previous year at 20 percent and even with the 5-year average. Reporters noted that winter wheat germination is in progress but needs significant moisture to support future growth. According to reporters, calves are being shipped at lower than average weaning weights due to the lack of forage. Producers continue to move up shipping dates due to the poor pasture conditions and the high cost of supplemental feed. Movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture has slowed slightly but remains ahead of normal, with an estimated 50 percent of cattle and calves and 49 percent of sheep and lambs moved from summer pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	23	12	17	16
Harvested for silage.....	70	55	68	73
Safflower				
Harvested.....	70	60	59	51
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	6	2	6	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	52	42	48	54
Emerged.....	19	10	20	19
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	50	46	26	30
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	49	40	29	35

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	7.0	3.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	61	55	24	11
Short.....	35	43	48	27
Adequate.....	4	2	28	50
Surplus.....	--	--	--	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	60	70	15	15
Short.....	34	26	61	36
Adequate.....	6	4	24	43
Surplus.....	--	--	--	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.....	14	18	--	2
Poor.....	33	28	3	6
Fair.....	21	30	29	28
Good.....	31	22	52	52
Excellent.....	1	2	16	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	68	58	22	18
Poor.....	23	34	21	18
Fair.....	9	8	42	30
Good.....	--	--	12	26
Excellent.....	--	--	3	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	10	10	--	2
Poor.....	11	14	--	6
Fair.....	42	36	30	26
Good.....	35	38	46	50
Excellent.....	2	2	24	16

NA – not available

(--)- zero