

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 October 18, 2021

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 17, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cooler temperatures and scattered snowstorms were prevalent across Montana last 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 and 22 percent of the state is currently under exceptional drought conditions, both unchanged from last week. Reporters in Beaverhead and Deerlodge counties stated they received snowstorms throughout the week, while reporters in Teton and Valley counties noted they didn't receive any measurable moisture throughout the week. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were rated 6 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 2 percent in the previous week, and 23 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 3 percent adequate to surplus compared to 34 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed well last week despite some moisture events, with an estimated 46 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 31 percent and the 5-year average of 29 percent. Corn harvested for silage is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 94 percent and 5-year average at 90 percent. Safflower harvest is nearing the end, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 79 percent and 64 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest made good progress last week, with an estimated 35 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year of 34 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 37 percent. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop progressed well last week, with an estimated 78 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 75 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 79 percent planted. Emergence of the 2022 winter wheat crop made good progress last week, with an estimated 50 percent of the crop emerged, behind the previous year and 5-year average of 55 percent. Reporters continue to state that cattle and sheep herd liquidation is imminent as dry conditions carry on and pasture conditions deplete. An estimated 62 percent of cattle and calves and 61 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, with 23 percent of cattle and 19 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.....	46	36	31	29
Harvested for silage.....	95	85	94	90
Safflower				
Harvested.....	90	80	79	64
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	35	20	34	37
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	78	66	75	79
Emerged.....	50	36	55	55
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	62	55	47	51
Receiving supplemental feed.....	23	21	27	19
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	61	57	49	54
Receiving supplemental feed.....	19	22	29	19

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.....	6.1	6.8	5.6	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	54	56	19	11
Short.....	40	42	58	28
Adequate.....	6	2	23	50
Surplus.....	--	--	--	11
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	60	62	9	12
Short.....	37	36	57	32
Adequate.....	3	2	34	49
Surplus.....	--	--	--	7

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.....	17	18	--	1
Poor.....	24	24	1	7
Fair.....	32	22	16	26
Good.....	27	36	70	54
Excellent.....	--	--	13	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	65	69	22	16
Poor.....	30	22	24	18
Fair.....	5	9	39	30
Good.....	--	--	14	29
Excellent.....	--	--	1	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	10	10	--	2
Poor.....	14	16	4	6
Fair.....	42	42	28	24
Good.....	32	30	53	53
Excellent.....	2	2	15	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero