

# 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 24, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cooler temperatures and dry conditions remained 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, unchanged from the previous week despite some moisture events. Eighteen percent of the state is currently under exceptional drought conditions, down from 22 percent last week. Reporters in Roosevelt and Teton counties stated weather conditions remain dry and needed moisture has not been received. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 6 percent in the previous week, and 35 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 4 percent adequate to surplus compared to 32 percent the previous year. An estimated 55 percent of the corn for grain crop has been harvested, ahead of the previous year at 37 percent and the 5-year average of 40 percent. Safflower harvest is virtually complete, with an estimated 99 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 84 percent and 71 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed significantly last week, with an estimated 55 percent of the crop harvested, behind the previous year of 57 percent, but equal to the 5-year average. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 88 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 86 percent, and equal to the 5-year average. As emergence of the 2022 winter wheat crop continues, reporters note that without moisture they fear crop could be damaged beyond repair. An estimated 63 percent of the winter wheat crop has emerged, behind the previous year and 5-year average of 64 percent and 66 percent, respectively. Reporters in Musselshell and Valley counties noted a majority of calves have been shipped and herd culling continues at a higher rate than normal. Movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture continues ahead of normal, with an estimated 69 percent of cattle and calves and 68 percent of sheep and lambs moved. As dry conditions persist and pasture conditions deplete, producers are utilizing supplemental feed at a higher rate than average. An estimated 37 percent of cattle and 40 percent of sheep are receiving supplemental feed, compared to 5-year averages of 24 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	55	46	37	40
Safflower				
Harvested.....	99	90	84	71
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	55	35	57	55
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	88	78	86	88
Emerged.....	63	50	64	66
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	69	62	59	60
Receiving supplemental feed.....	37	23	48	24
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	68	61	61	64
Receiving supplemental feed.....	40	19	47	21

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.....	6.7	6.1	1.5	4.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	62	54	16	10
Short.....	34	40	49	25
Adequate.....	3	6	35	56
Surplus.....	1	--	--	9
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	63	60	14	13
Short.....	33	37	54	32
Adequate.....	3	3	32	50
Surplus.....	1	--	--	5

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.....	16	17	--	NA
Poor.....	25	24	1	NA
Fair.....	33	32	25	NA
Good.....	26	27	59	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	15	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	70	65	20	17
Poor.....	26	30	18	16
Fair.....	4	5	37	29
Good.....	--	--	24	32
Excellent.....	--	--	1	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	11	10	--	NA
Poor.....	13	14	--	NA
Fair.....	37	42	24	NA
Good.....	37	32	55	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	21	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	20	NA	1	1
Poor.....	22	NA	1	4
Fair.....	48	NA	18	31
Good.....	10	NA	79	52
Excellent.....	--	NA	1	12

NA – not available

(--) – zero