

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 NOVEMBER 21, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Precipitation was received across the state last week, but in most areas accumulated totals fell below normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the US Drought Monitor for November 18, 2021, drought conditions improved slightly from the previous week. A portion of Montana fell from severe to moderate drought status, at 7.2 percent of the state. Severe drought was found in 23.9 percent of the state, an improvement of 6.4 percentage points from the previous week. Extreme drought was found in 45.7 percent of the state, a slight decline from last week's 47.4 percent. With an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the previous week, however, exceptional drought was found in 23.2 percent of the state. Temperatures once again sat above normal, running as high as 8 to 10 degrees above average in some areas.

Improvements in drought conditions were not enough to alleviate the stress on pasture, crops, and livestock. In Valley County, strong winds dried out the precipitation that fell. Judith Basin County also felt the effects of wind, and fire danger was high. Ranchers were expected to feed soon given poor pasture conditions. Winter wheat stands remained thin. A reporter in Philips County expressed concern about the continuing effects of drought in wheat fields. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were rated 1 percent adequate, 32 percent short, and 67 percent very short. Subsoil moisture was rated 94 percent short to very short, compared to 65 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest moved forward with an estimated 88 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 76 percent and the five-year average of 75 percent. Sugarbeet harvest jumped to an estimated 97 percent complete, compared to 83 percent harvested last week. Winter wheat was 85 percent emerged, behind the previous year and the average of 90 percent. Cattle moved from pasture moved ahead slightly to 80 percent, compared to 79 percent the previous week. Sheep and lambs moved increased to 85 percent, compared to 81 percent the previous week. An estimated 51 percent of cattle and 42 percent of sheep were receiving supplemental feed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	88	84	76	75
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	97	83	94	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	85	81	94	90
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	80	79	81	84
Receiving supplemental feed	51	43	65	43
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	85	81	82	87
Receiving supplemental feed	42	47	71	48

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.....	6.5	6.7	2.9	4.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	67	52	11	7
Short.....	32	44	47	22
Adequate.....	1	4	42	63
Surplus.....	--	--	--	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	70	67	16	11
Short.....	24	27	49	30
Adequate.....	6	6	35	54
Surplus.....	--	--	--	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)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	72	73	22	17
Poor.....	27	23	20	16
Fair.....	1	3	33	31
Good.....	--	1	24	29
Excellent.....	--	--	1	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	22	21	2	1
Poor.....	20	21	4	5
Fair.....	49	51	9	25
Good.....	7	5	74	48
Excellent.....	2	2	11	21

NA – not available

(--) – zero