

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 November 29, 2021

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 28, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Isolated areas of northwestern Montana received cumulative precipitation totals up to 1.0 inches or more last week, but for the most part the state once again remained dry with below average moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Unseasonably high temperatures continued, and in some areas, temperatures ran as much as 12 degrees above the average. Drought conditions persisted according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 24, 2021. Moderate drought was found in 7.2 percent of the state, unchanged from last week. With an increase of 5.1 percentage points from the previous week, severe drought prevailed in 26.0 percent of the state. Extreme drought was found in 33.7 percent of the state, a decrease of 12.0 percentage points. The portion of the state experiencing exceptional drought grew to 33.1 percent, an increase of 9.9 percentage points from the previous week.

Warm conditions persisted in Teton county which was keeping winter wheat from going into dormancy. Strong winds diminished the effects of the minimal precipitation that was received. Winter wheat was stressed in Phillips county with fears root development would be impaired. Fall grazing was minimal in Valley county due to the ongoing warm temperatures, wind, and lack of moisture. Some producers were using the droughted crops to feed their livestock. Effects of the drought and wind were evident on topsoil moisture and the wheat crop. Topsoil moisture was rated 4 percent adequate to surplus compared to 1 percent last week, 17 percent was rated short compared to 32 percent last week, and 79 percent was rated very short compared to 67 percent the previous week. Winter wheat progress moved ahead with 88 percent of the crop estimated emerged compared to 85 percent the previous week and an average of 92 percent. Condition ratings for the winter wheat crop stood at 7 percent good to excellent compared to 9 percent the previous week, 37 percent of the crop was rated fair, compared to 49 percent last week, and 56 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated poor to very poor compared to 42 percent last week. Corn was 90 percent harvested compared to 88 percent the previous week and 88 percent the previous year. An estimated 60 percent of cattle were receiving supplemental feed compared to 62 percent last year. Cattle moved from pasture grew to 85 percent. Sheep receiving supplemental feed jumped to 62 percent with 86 percent having been moved from pasture.

Note: This report concludes the weekly crop progress report for 2021. Next year's Montana weekly report will begin in April 2022.

Monthly reports will be released for December on January 3, 2022; for January on January 24, 2022; for February on February 22, 2022; and for March on March 28, 2022.

Our thanks to the weekly reporters for providing crop progress observations during the 2021 season.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	90	88	88	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	88	85	96	92
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	85	80	87	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	60	51	62	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	86	85	87	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	62	42	78	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.....	6.4	6.5	4.7	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	79	67	18	NA
Short.....	17	32	36	NA
Adequate.....	4	1	46	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	71	70	20	NA
Short.....	21	24	40	NA
Adequate.....	7	6	40	NA
Surplus.....	1	--	--	NA

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.....	73	72	24	NA
Poor.....	22	27	25	NA
Fair.....	5	1	33	NA
Good.....	--	--	18	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	--	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	21	22	3	NA
Poor.....	35	20	7	NA
Fair.....	37	49	16	NA
Good.....	5	7	60	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	14	NA

NA – not available

(--)- zero