

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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week brought scattered precipitation to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The majority of the State received between 0.1 and 0.4 inches of moisture this week. Isolated areas throughout the State received upwards of half an inch of rainfall, while other areas received only trace amounts of precipitation. Temperatures were once again above average. Average daily temperatures for most of the State ranged from 2 to 5 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year. Lack of moisture and warm temperatures have increased fire danger and worsened drought conditions. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 15, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 27.6 percent, compared to 35.2 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 19.1 percent of the State, a slight increase from 18.5 percent last week. Severe drought conditions increased 13.4 percentage points from 20.8 percent of the State last week to 34.2 percent this week. Extreme drought conditions remained at 3.6 percent of the State. Overall, 84.5 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, an increase of approximately 8.2 percent from 78.1 percent last week.

Dawson County reported very dry conditions and elevated fire danger. Conditions in Roosevelt County remain unchanged, with continued reports of dry conditions and grasshoppers. Producers in Blaine County reported low reservoir water levels and very poor pasture conditions. Harvest of grain and hay is underway in the county; however, morning dew is making harvest difficult for producers. Canola, dry edible bean, durum wheat, flaxseed, and mustard seed harvest is nearing completion, with harvest reported over 95 percent complete for each crop. Corn harvest continues ahead of last year. Corn harvested for silage is reported at 43 percent complete, compared to 38 percent complete this time last year and corn harvested for grain is reported at 14 percent complete, compared to 4 percent complete this time last year. Winter wheat emergence for the 2023 crop began this week, with emergence reported at 5 percent, compared to 3 percent emergence this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested	98	93	89	83
Corn				
Harvested for silage	43	27	38	45
Harvested for grain	14	10	4	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	96	85	89	NA
Durum wheat				
Harvested	97	91	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested	96	89	90	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	96	91	90	84
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	90	84	90	NA
Safflower				
Harvested	81	68	49	37
Winter wheat				
Planted	35	19	24	14
Emerged	5	NA	3	1
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	21	17	39	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	24	20	34	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	6.5	6.5	6.8	5.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	51	49	49	24
Short	41	44	46	36
Adequate	8	7	5	36
Surplus	--	--	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	44	38	65	30
Short	48	52	31	35
Adequate	8	10	4	33
Surplus	--	--	--	2

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	6	4	19	6
Poor	11	7	26	11
Fair	22	21	32	27
Good	59	68	22	46
Excellent	2	--	1	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	31	26	56	28
Poor	27	22	35	23
Fair	24	29	9	25
Good	18	23	--	21
Excellent	--	--	--	3
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	--	10	4
Poor	1	1	14	8
Fair	30	25	36	28
Good	66	74	38	47
Excellent	2	--	2	13

NA – not available

(--) – zero