

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
 October 24, 2022

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 23, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week brought much needed moisture to parts of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Much of the State received 0.3 inches or more of moisture, with isolated areas receiving over 1.2 inches. The eastern border, however, was very dry this week, receiving 0.15 inches or less of moisture. Temperatures were well above average this week. Average daily temperatures ranged from 6 to 12 degrees above average for most of the State. Despite the precipitation received, conditions remain very dry throughout the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor published on October 20, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 15.3 percent, compared to 16.8 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 32.3 percent of the State, a slight increase from 31.6 percent last week. Severe drought conditions decreased from 27.9 percent last week to 25.4 percent of the State this week. Extreme drought conditions increased 3.3 percentage points to cover 16.6 percent of the State, compared to 13.3 percent last week. Overall, 89.6 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported some rainfall this week with the mountains receiving snow. Producers are beginning to ship calves to feedlots. Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties received rain/snow showers this week. Valley County remains very dry. Producers have not started planting winter wheat due to the dry conditions. There is some precipitation forecasted for the upcoming week that may allow producers to plant some winter wheat; however, the outlook for the winter wheat crop in the county is poor. Sugarbeet harvest is progressing similarly to last year. Harvest is 51 percent complete this week, compared to 52 percent complete this time last year. Corn harvested for grain is behind last year, with harvest reported at 47 percent complete this week, compared to 54 percent complete this time last year. Corn harvested for silage is nearing completion, with harvest reported at 95 percent complete this week. Winter wheat planting continues ahead of last year, as does emergence of the crop. Planting is 93 percent complete, compared to 87 percent complete this time last year and emergence is at 77 percent, compared to 61 percent emerged this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	47	40	54	39
Harvested for silage	95	83	NA	NA
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	51	37	52	54
Winter wheat				
Planted	93	89	87	87
Emerged	77	63	61	61
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	44	40	68	60
Receiving supplemental feed	42	35	37	29
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	54	50	67	60
Receiving supplemental feed	26	25	40	26

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	5.3	6.9	6.7	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	30	37	62	20
Short	41	39	34	29
Adequate	26	24	3	45
Surplus	3	--	1	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	45	54	63	23
Short	42	39	33	35
Adequate	12	7	3	38
Surplus	1	--	1	4

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.....	1	--	16	4
Poor.....	5	7	25	10
Fair.....	34	31	33	28
Good.....	59	62	26	49
Excellent.....	1	--	--	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	21	27	70	27
Poor.....	20	15	26	18
Fair.....	29	30	4	23
Good.....	30	28	--	27
Excellent.....	--	--	--	5
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	1	--	11	NA
Poor.....	3	--	13	NA
Fair.....	40	36	37	NA
Good.....	55	64	37	NA
Excellent.....	1	--	2	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	13	20	20	5
Poor.....	8	17	22	8
Fair.....	34	30	48	36
Good.....	30	27	10	45
Excellent.....	15	6	--	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero