

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 10, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures remained above average for the majority of Montana according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran as high as 5 degrees above normal in some areas according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Rainfall totals varied. Precipitation was minimal in much of the north and east-central Montana. Other parts of the State received moisture totals at or above normal. Portions of Broadwater County received as much as 2 inches of rain. Parts of Carter County also received significant levels of rain. Drought conditions changed little according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released September 7, 2023. For a third week, the amount of land rated drought free sat still at 52 percent. Abnormal dryness and moderate drought conditions were also unchanged at 9 and 13 percent, respectively. Severe drought conditions were found in 16 percent of the State, a decrease of one percentage point. Extreme conditions, in turn, increased by one percentage point to 10 percent from the previous week. Conditions were dry in Blaine County, and the fall temperatures allowed farmers to move forward with harvests. In other areas of the State, moisture slowed field progress. Rain was received almost daily in Broadwater County, and farmers made little progress with crop harvests or cutting hay. There were reports of sprout damage in barley, along with concerns that more would be seen in both barley and wheat if harvests were not completed soon. Most of Chouteau County received 0.35 to 1.25 inches of rain. Areas northwest of Big Sandy, however, were dry. A few producers had begun seeding winter wheat, with more expected to begin the next week. Significant acres of flaxseed, safflower, and chickpeas remained unharvested. Harvests for most other crops were farther along. A reporter for Roosevelt County stated conditions remained dry.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	88	84	NA	NA
Barley				
Harvested.....	89	86	93	88
Canola				
Harvested.....	68	63	90	70
Corn				
Harvested for grain	1	NA	NA	NA
Harvested for silage	23	15	26	25
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	85	84	83	70
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	88	83	90	75
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	86	76	86	61
Lentils				
Harvested.....	93	91	96	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	95	93	89	72
Oats				
Harvested.....	77	73	96	87
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	73	68	83	81
Safflower				
Turning color.....	73	68	NA	NA
Harvested.....	25	23	64	32
Spring wheat				
Harvested.....	90	85	97	87
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	97	93	100	96
Planted.....	3	1	17	8
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	29	27	15	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	26	25	18	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	6.7	6.4	6.5	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	37	35	49	28
Short	40	49	44	37
Adequate.....	23	16	7	32
Surplus.....	--	--	--	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	45	45	38	28
Short	32	38	52	39
Adequate.....	23	17	10	31
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	4	4
Poor	7	3	7	10
Fair.....	12	19	21	23
Good	69	68	68	55
Excellent	11	9	--	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	18	11	26	23
Poor	19	20	22	21
Fair.....	26	28	29	25
Good	32	36	23	26
Excellent	5	5	--	5
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	--	5
Poor	--	--	16	14
Fair.....	32	41	38	32
Good	68	59	28	40
Excellent	--	--	18	9

Current conditions for Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(--) – zero