

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 OCTOBER 1, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: It was another week of varying temperatures and mixed precipitation according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Above or slightly above normal amounts of precipitation were received in much of the north and west according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Easterly and southern sections of the State were mostly dry. Variable temperatures continued with below average temperatures in western sections of the State. In the east, however, some areas experienced average temperatures as high as 10 degrees above normal. A slight improvement was seen in drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released September 28, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 56 percent, up from 53 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness fell two percentage points from the previous week to 6 percent. Moderate drought was unchanged at 14 percent. Severe drought conditions fell slightly to 14 percent, compared with 15 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions were unchanged at 10 percent. With the cooler temperature pattern, the chance of hard frost and the need to protect sensitive crops was of concern in Ravalli County. Pasture grazing remained feasible with cool season forage still available. The dryness lingered on in Roosevelt County. Soil samples were taken to measure the extent of the dry conditions.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canola | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 85 | 77 | NA | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for silage | 60 | 44 | 58 | 62 |
| Harvested for grain | 23 | 17 | 20 | 14 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 88 | 80 | NA | NA |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 87 | 80 | 98 | NA |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Turning color | 91 | 82 | NA | NA |
| Harvested..... | 56 | 32 | 91 | 60 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 8 | -- | 4 | 7 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted..... | 52 | 37 | 65 | 48 |
| Emerged | 5 | -- | 29 | 16 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 42 | 36 | 34 | 29 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 39 | 34 | 40 | 28 |

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 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 30 | 38 | 47 | 27 |
| Short | 47 | 39 | 40 | 33 |
| Adequate..... | 22 | 23 | 12 | 33 |
| Surplus..... | 1 | -- | 1 | 7 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 47 | 56 | 53 | 30 |
| Short | 37 | 29 | 36 | 36 |
| Adequate..... | 16 | 15 | 11 | 30 |
| Surplus..... | -- | -- | -- | 4 |

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 | 1 | 3 |
| Poor | 5 | 13 | 7 | 11 |
| Fair..... | 22 | 20 | 21 | 24 |
| Good | 64 | 57 | 70 | 54 |
| Excellent | 8 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 8 | 10 | 30 | 26 |
| Poor | 12 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| Fair..... | 36 | 27 | 28 | 26 |
| Good | 39 | 41 | 21 | 23 |
| Excellent | 5 | 7 | -- | 7 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | NA | NA |
| Poor | -- | -- | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 40 | 32 | NA | NA |
| Good | 60 | 68 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | -- | -- | NA | NA |

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

NA – not available

(--) – zero