

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 October 10, 2023

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana remained predominantly dry, and temperatures were varied, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Low levels of precipitation were found throughout the majority of Montana, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). The exception was in the northeast. Parts of the northeast received as much as 1-2 inches of moisture. Temperatures were, on average, slightly below normal in eastern sections of the State. Average temperatures increased moving westward. Temperatures ran as high as 4 degrees above normal in some far western portions of Montana. The U.S. Drought Monitor report released October 5, 2023, indicated changes in severe and extreme drought conditions. The amount of land rated drought free remained unchanged, at 56 percent. Abnormal dryness and moderate drought conditions held steady at 6 and 14 percent, respectively. Severe drought conditions increased by 6 percentage points to 20 percent. Extreme drought fell by the same amount to 4 percent from the previous week. Farmers were expecting cooler and wetter weather in Ravalli County, as well as the likelihood of hard frost. With the upcoming weather fluctuations, farmers remained concerned about the effect on sensitive crops and trees.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested.....	89	85	NA	NA
Corn				
Harvested for silage	81	60	76	76
Harvested for grain	34	23	31	22
Oats				
Harvested.....	95	88	NA	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	88	87	100	NA
Safflower				
Turning color	95	91	NA	NA
Harvested.....	70	56	94	66
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	21	8	17	17
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	74	52	75	62
Emerged	33	5	47	32
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	45	42	36	36
Receiving supplemental feed	7	NA	27	20
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	41	39	42	35
Receiving supplemental feed	4	NA	27	21

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	6.3	5.9	6.1	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	30	30	46	27
Short	38	47	38	34
Adequate.....	31	22	16	32
Surplus.....	1	1	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	40	47	62	31
Short	35	37	31	34
Adequate.....	25	16	7	30
Surplus.....	--	--	--	5

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	4
Poor	2	5	7	9
Fair.....	20	22	29	24
Good	69	64	62	53
Excellent	8	8	1	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	11	8	30	26
Poor	13	12	16	17
Fair.....	31	36	35	31
Good	38	39	19	20
Excellent	7	5	--	6

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

NA – not available

(--)- zero