

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 22, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures ran high in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were as many as 12–15 degrees above normal for the majority of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Precipitation varied, but the greater share of Montana received below normal amounts of moisture. The exceptions occurred in isolated sections of northern Montana where moisture received was slightly above normal. Changes in drought conditions were once again minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released October 19, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free again sat still at 56 percent. Abnormal dryness increased by 2 percentage points from the previous week, to 9 percent. Moderate and severe drought conditions were unchanged at 14 and 20 percent, respectively. Extreme drought conditions decreased to 1 percent, down from 3 percent last week. Pastures were greening in Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties following recent rains. Less grazing was also a benefit to pastures now that shipments of livestock had begun. Colder temperatures, including single digits at night, were forecasted for upcoming time periods in Ravalli County. Producers were advised to ensure livestock have adequate shelter, food, and water, as well as warmth for young animals. Sensitive crops would also need protection. Remaining forages required baling before hard freezes occur.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for silage	86	83	93	NA
Harvested for grain	68	42	46	38
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	93	90	NA	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	82	76	NA	NA
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	46	28	49	48
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	78	76	92	86
Emerged	62	57	75	60
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	52	50	43	55
Receiving supplemental feed	23	18	42	30
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	45	43	53	54
Receiving supplemental feed	11	10	26	27

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	6.8	6.6	5.3	5.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	24	33	30	23
Short	37	37	41	31
Adequate.....	39	30	26	40
Surplus.....	--	--	3	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	40	49	45	27
Short	31	31	42	34
Adequate.....	29	20	12	35
Surplus.....	--	--	1	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	4
Poor	3	3	5	8
Fair.....	18	17	34	27
Good	70	70	59	53
Excellent	8	9	1	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	NA	13	7
Poor	7	NA	8	7
Fair.....	31	NA	34	30
Good	20	NA	30	47
Excellent	41	NA	15	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor	18	12	21	25
Poor	19	14	20	16
Fair.....	27	26	29	24
Good	34	41	30	31
Excellent	2	7	--	4

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

NA – not available

(--) – zero