

# 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 NOVEMBER 19, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Average temperatures were above normal for the majority of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures ranged as many as 6 to 10 degrees above normal for much of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures, however, were at or below normal in parts of the northwest. Precipitation levels were at or below average for the greater part of Montana. The exceptions were again in the northwest, and in north central portions of the State. Some portions of the northwest received over one inch of precipitation. Changes to drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 16, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free, as well as abnormally dry conditions, were unchanged at 67 and 7 percent, respectively. Moderate drought conditions increased to 18 percent, up from 14 percent last week. Severe drought conditions fell to 8 percent, while extreme conditions were removed from the State. Snow and freezing rain made for difficult conditions in Blaine County at the start of the week. For the most part, however, unseasonably warm temperatures persisted. With the continuing late season fair weather in Broadwater County, farmers were able to bale more acreage of third cutting hay. The window of good weather was expected to end soon. Calves and lambs were weaned in Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties. Pastures remained green from the recent rains and favorable weather conditions. Producers took advantage of the mild weather, and kept their livestock herds on pastures.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	91	84	94	77
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	95	92	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged .....	95	91	98	89
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	77	74	69	79
Receiving supplemental feed .....	55	52	67	50
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	73	67	76	82
Receiving supplemental feed .....	53	49	60	51

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.....	5.8	5.8	1.2	1.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	20	16	13	19
Short .....	32	34	58	29
Adequate .....	46	47	29	47
Surplus .....	2	3	--	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	34	37	46	28
Short .....	27	27	40	30
Adequate .....	37	33	14	39
Surplus .....	2	3	--	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	1	1	1	5
Poor .....	4	5	15	10
Fair .....	37	40	54	30
Good .....	21	19	24	39
Excellent .....	37	35	6	16
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	19	18	30	27
Poor .....	20	20	20	17
Fair .....	24	24	25	23
Good .....	35	33	25	27
Excellent .....	2	5	--	6

NA – not available

-- – zero