

# 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 10, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** The pattern of varied temperatures and diverse precipitation continued, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran higher in mostly northern sections of the State, averaging about 8 degrees above normal in some areas, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures were lower moving south. Parts of the southwest experienced average temperatures about 2 degrees below normal. Portions of Sanders County reported moisture levels measuring 0.5 inch or higher earlier in the week. A few other areas of Montana also received above normal amounts of precipitation. For the most part, however, moisture levels were at or below average. With 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork, harvests moved forward. Conditions were downgraded with the on-going lack of sufficient moisture. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released November 7, the amount of land rated drought free fell to zero, down from 15 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness increased by 12 percentage points to 42 percent. Moderate drought conditions were found in 21 percent of the State, up from 19 percent last week. Severe conditions increased by 2 percentage points to 24 percent. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions were unchanged at 13 and 1 percent, respectively. An agent in Big Horn County reported that sugarbeet and corn harvests were still underway. Dawson County operators were shipping out calves and returning cows to pastures and native ranges. Fields and ranges were very dry. Fall moisture was crucial, or farmers and ranchers would face bad conditions next spring. A reporter for Valley County also stated that conditions remained very dry.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	80	72	83	69
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	86	71	88	79
Winter wheat				
Emerged .....	86	80	89	84
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	71	68	73	73
Receiving supplemental feed .....	50	45	52	49
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	67	60	66	72
Receiving supplemental feed .....	51	43	49	53

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.....	6.5	7.0	5.8	3.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	46	37	16	20
Short .....	35	36	34	35
Adequate .....	19	27	47	40
Surplus .....	--	--	3	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	46	37	37	33
Short .....	37	38	27	30
Adequate .....	17	25	33	33
Surplus .....	--	--	3	4

NA – not available  
 (–) – zero

**CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	40	39	18	29
Poor .....	22	27	20	18
Fair .....	35	29	24	23
Good .....	3	5	33	25
Excellent .....	--	--	5	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	3	1	5
Poor.....	9	11	5	12
Fair.....	59	64	40	36
Good.....	27	22	19	32
Excellent.....	--	--	35	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero