

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
 November 25, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures varied, and precipitation was again mixed, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Much of Montana experienced below average temperatures. Temperatures were in a range of about normal to 4 degrees below normal across much of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Parts of Cascade, Glacier, Judith Basin, Pondera, and Teton Counties, as well as surrounding areas, saw average temperatures as many as 10 degrees below normal. Temperatures ran higher in some western and southwestern portions of the State, where temperatures ran as much as 2-6 degrees above average. Much of Montana received moisture in a range of about 0.1-0.5 inch. Parts of the northwest received higher amounts. Portions Lincoln, Flathead, and Sanders Counties received as much as 2.5 inches of moisture, also according to the HPRCC. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 21, about 1 percent of Montana's land mass was rated drought free, a change from none the previous week. Abnormal dryness stood at 40 percent, down 2 percentage points. Moderate drought conditions increased by the same amount to 23 percent. Severe conditions fell to 18 percent, down from 24 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions were also rated 18 percent, up from 13 percent last week. Exceptional drought conditions were unchanged at 1 percent. Calves were shipped in Dawson County, and cows were turned back onto pastures and ranges. Temperatures were falling in Hill County. An agent for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported beneficial widespread moisture in the form of rain and snow. More snow was expected in Ravalli County in the new week. Temperatures were expected to hit the low teens. Adequate feed, water, and shelter, as well as protein rations, were needed for vulnerable livestock. Valley County also received some much-needed moisture. Amounts were low, measuring about 0.25 inch in some locations. More was expected in the new week, as a rain-snow mix was in the forecast. Cooler temperatures were also on the horizon.

Note: This release concludes the weekly crop progress report for 2024. Next year's Montana weekly report will begin in April 2025. Monthly reports will be released for December on January 6, 2025; for January on February 3, 2025; for February on March 3, 2025; and for March on March 31, 2025. Our thanks to the weekly reporters for providing crop progress observations during the 2024 season.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	89	84	92	84
Winter wheat				
Emerged	95	91	96	91
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	77	74	78	80
Receiving supplemental feed	61	53	64	57
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	77	74	76	82
Receiving supplemental feed	63	55	61	62

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	4.8	6.5	5.4	3.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	40	49	17	25
Short	42	34	33	28
Adequate.....	18	17	49	43
Surplus.....	--	--	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	44	47	36	33
Short	40	39	25	29
Adequate.....	16	14	38	35
Surplus.....	--	--	1	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	42	49	16	29
Poor	28	19	18	17
Fair.....	26	30	24	21
Good.....	4	2	39	29
Excellent	--	--	3	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	6	--	5
Poor.....	5	9	5	13
Fair	52	50	37	31
Good.....	39	35	21	30
Excellent.....	--	--	37	21

NA – not available

(--) – zero