

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 JUNE 30, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures varied, and precipitation was mixed, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) indicate that temperatures were cooler in most northern areas of the State, averaging 3 to 6 degrees below normal. Moving south, temperatures ran higher. Temperatures were as many as 6 degrees above normal in some southern areas. Precipitation levels were in a range of about normal to 0.75 inch below normal for much of the State. Portions of the north, east, southwest, and a few other isolated areas received precipitation running as high as 0.75 inch above normal. In Beaverhead County, some areas received precipitation totaling 3 inches or more above normal. The U.S. Drought Monitor report released June 27 indicated that the amount of land rated drought free sat still at 8 percent. Abnormal dryness fell by 5 percentage points from the previous report to 52 percent. Moderate drought increased by the same amount, to 35 percent. Severe drought conditions were unchanged, at almost 5 percent. The weather varied in Big Horn County. Rain and hail hit the vicinity of Hardin. Rain was minor in other areas, but winds were considerable. Storms moved through Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Winds were strong. Rains hampered hay harvest. Rains were insufficient, however, to benefit non-irrigated fields and pastures. Irrigation water from high lakes was running short. Corn was too short in some areas. Calf producers were locking in contracts given the higher prices this year. Spotty weather conditions in Roosevelt County resulted in large damaging hail on the west end of the county. More warmth was needed for corn development. Grasshoppers were feeding on the edge of fields. Grasshoppers were also reported in Valley County, and densities were high. Growers were requesting management strategies to control the pests while they were still small. Flax was blooming in southern parts of the county. There was minimal rain in central Wibaux County, along with high winds.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	27	16	28	33
Barley				
Emerged	96	91	95	97
Booted	73	52	56	59
Headed	32	3	16	28
Canola				
Planted.....	97	92	94	NA
Emerged	82	81	78	NA
Blooming.....	11	NA	51	40
Coloring	2	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Emerged	90	86	90	NA
Dry edible beans				
Emerged	96	93	NA	NA
Blooming.....	3	NA	27	NA
Dry peas				
Blooming.....	61	49	51	49
Durum wheat				
Booted	36	19	28	35
Headed	8	1	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Emerged	95	86	93	NA
Lentils				
Blooming.....	78	56	38	43
Mustard seed				
Blooming.....	46	34	44	42
Oats				
Emerged	95	91	NA	NA
Booted	62	34	34	46
Headed	11	2	NA	NA
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	35	15	29	33
Safflower				
Planted.....	92	80	93	NA
Emerged	56	43	76	73
Blooming.....	14	1	9	6
Spring wheat				
Booted	78	54	83	68
Headed	33	16	32	26
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	96	91	75	NA
Emerged	72	63	63	NA
Winter wheat				
Booted.....	95	80	94	NA
Headed	75	71	78	76
Coloring.....	36	12	NA	NA

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	5.7	5.5	6.6	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	3	5	3	16
Short	31	37	24	24
Adequate.....	65	57	72	55
Surplus.....	1	1	1	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	4	4	2	17
Short	32	33	26	26
Adequate.....	63	62	71	55
Surplus.....	1	1	1	2

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	1	1	1	5
Poor	5	1	6	14
Fair.....	43	38	59	33
Good.....	50	59	33	36
Excellent	1	1	1	12
Canola				
Very poor	--	--	2	4
Poor	--	1	2	4
Fair.....	40	42	37	29
Good.....	53	56	55	52
Excellent	7	1	4	11
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	1	2
Poor	3	2	9	11
Fair.....	30	23	32	32
Good.....	63	67	56	50
Excellent	3	7	2	5
Dry peas				
Very poor	--	--	1	6
Poor	2	1	2	12
Fair.....	33	24	42	36
Good.....	63	72	54	42
Excellent	2	3	1	4
Durum wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	3
Poor	5	5	4	9
Fair.....	39	36	67	45
Good.....	53	57	28	41
Excellent	3	2	--	2
Lentils				
Very poor	--	--	--	4
Poor	1	1	1	8
Fair.....	32	26	47	41
Good.....	62	68	52	45
Excellent	5	5	--	2
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	--	--	1	8
Fair.....	2	2	59	50
Good.....	97	97	40	40
Excellent	1	1	--	1
Pasture and range				
Very poor	4	5	1	13
Poor	10	14	4	14
Fair.....	23	25	28	23
Good.....	55	46	55	40
Excellent	8	10	12	10
Safflower				
Very poor	4	NA	NA	NA
Poor	32	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	46	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	15	NA	NA	NA
Excellent	3	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	6
Poor	4	4	2	15
Fair.....	39	30	40	30
Good.....	53	62	57	44
Excellent	4	4	1	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	--	6
Poor	2	1	1	12
Fair.....	38	33	50	27
Good.....	35	38	39	34
Excellent	25	28	10	21

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, and Oats, are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (–) – zero