

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 27, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The pattern of above normal temperatures continued, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were in a range of about 2-10 degrees above normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures were highest in mostly southern and eastern portions of Montana. Precipitation levels were mostly at or below normal. The exceptions were in the northeast and northwest. Portions of the northeast received precipitation in a range of about 0.25 to 0.4 inch above normal. Parts of the northwest received higher amounts of moisture, also according to the HPRCC. Changes in drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released October 24. The amount of land rated drought free sat just above 14 percent, compared to 16 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 31 percent of the State, up 1 percentage point. Moderate drought fell to 21 percent. Severe conditions were rated 20 percent, up from 19 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions also increased by 1 percentage point to 13 percent. Exceptional drought conditions were again unchanged, at 1 percent. In Custer County, the Lower Yellowstone Valley had the first killing frost for the season. A Dawson County report stated that conditions were very dry, and moisture was needed. In Ravalli County, cooler temperatures were on the horizon, and were expected to continue into winter. Producers were working to ensure livestock had adequate food, water, and shelter. An agent in Wibaux County reported that no rain had been received for a long time. Producers were shipping livestock, and also providing supplemental feed earlier than usual.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	62	48	71	50
Harvested for silage	96	81	92	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	95	88	84	NA
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	54	37	57	56
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	88	75	91	91
Emerged	72	67	73	69
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	61	47	64	60
Receiving supplemental feed	41	35	44	32
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	52	43	56	61
Receiving supplemental feed	33	31	34	29

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.....	7.0	6.9	2.5	4.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	31	26	28	25
Short	33	36	32	30
Adequate	36	38	48	39
Surplus	--	--	2	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	31	27	31	30
Short	37	37	29	30
Adequate	32	36	38	36
Surplus	--	--	2	4

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION ¹

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	2	NA	NA
Poor.....	15	15	NA	NA
Fair.....	36	41	NA	NA
Good.....	44	41	NA	NA
Excellent.....	4	1	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	34	36	15	25
Poor.....	27	23	15	18
Fair.....	36	37	24	23
Good.....	3	4	43	30
Excellent.....	--	--	3	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	7
Poor.....	9	8	1	9
Fair.....	73	64	22	32
Good.....	17	26	26	33
Excellent.....	--	1	50	19

¹Current conditions for Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(--) – zero