

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 24, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Much of the week was hot and dry with many areas of Montana under heavy smoke from wildfires in the western states. However, the weekend brought a cold front that dipped low temperatures into freezing in several locations and there were reports of snow in higher elevations. A few storms at the beginning of the week dropped some precipitation but mostly in the eastern portion of the state while the west continued to be largely dry. Harvest of small grains continues with 83 percent of barley, 35 percent of durum wheat, 68 percent of oats, 69 percent of spring wheat and 97 percent of winter wheat harvested this week. Pulse crops are also finishing up harvest weeks ahead of normal and dry peas harvest is wrapping up with 98 percent harvested compared with a 5-year average of 76 percent. Pasture and range conditions continued a seasonal decline from last week due to hot, dry weather with 23 percent rated good to excellent compared with 47 percent last year. Producers continue to move livestock off exhausted summer ranges ahead of normal with 13 percent of cattle and 8 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 5 percent and 6 percent respectively. Supplemental feeding of livestock is underway with 8 percent of cattle and 8 percent of sheep being fed at this time.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	73	66	70	66
Barley				
Harvested	83	62	49	47
Camelina				
Harvested	46	30	44	40
Canola				
Harvested	71	46	45	34
Corn				
Harvested for silage	3	2	1	4
Dry beans				
Harvested	74	47	21	21
Dry peas				
Harvested	98	87	75	76
Durum wheat				
Harvested	35	19	9	21
Flaxseed				
Harvested	65	40	3	14
Lentils				
Harvested	85	78	48	62
Mustard seed				
Turning	96	93	84	92
Harvested	66	53	28	30
Oats				
Harvested	68	57	53	46
Other hay				
Second cutting	55	50	53	51
Safflower				
Blooming	95	91	99	98
Turning	34	24	47	66
Spring wheat				
Harvested	69	43	33	33
Winter wheat				
Harvested	97	92	92	85
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	13	10	2	5
Receiving supplemental feed	8	5	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	14	10	6	6
Receiving supplemental feed	8	3	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.2	6.6	3.7	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	15	9	15
Short.....	38	38	23	39
Adequate.....	41	40	50	41
Surplus.....	6	7	18	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	14	6	13
Short.....	38	38	26	34
Adequate.....	39	39	56	49
Surplus.....	9	9	12	4

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor.....	7	7	3	4
Fair.....	33	33	32	33
Good.....	47	47	50	47
Excellent.....	12	12	15	15
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	6	6	4	4
Poor.....	26	34	10	7
Fair.....	27	27	37	30
Good.....	39	32	48	47
Excellent.....	2	1	1	12
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	20	20	5	NA
Good.....	53	53	74	NA
Excellent.....	27	27	21	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	10	9	4	10
Poor.....	22	22	15	14
Fair.....	45	45	34	31
Good.....	21	21	37	35
Excellent.....	2	3	10	10
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	1	3
Poor.....	8	8	4	7
Fair.....	32	33	39	31
Good.....	47	46	47	50
Excellent.....	9	9	9	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	4	6
Fair.....	29	29	13	27
Good.....	50	50	45	47
Excellent.....	13	13	37	19

NA – not available

(--)- zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_08232015.pdf