

# 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 AUGUST 30, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm, dry and smoky weather prevailed throughout Montana much of the week but a few areas received thunderstorms that produced decent moisture in some areas and damaging hail in others. Reporters commented that more precipitation will be needed in the coming weeks to ensure good winter wheat seeding conditions. Harvest of small grains continues with 93 percent of barley, 68 percent of durum wheat, 77 percent of oats, and 85 percent of spring wheat harvested this week. Pulse crops are also finishing up harvest weeks ahead of normal and lentil harvest is wrapping up with 91 percent harvested compared with a 5-year average of 79 percent. Pasture and range conditions continued a seasonal decline from last week due to hot, dry weather with 21 percent rated good to excellent compared with 50 percent last year. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 17 percent of cattle and 17 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 8 percent and 10 percent respectively. Some reporters noted that livestock producers are shipping calves early this year due to drought.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting .....	80	73	77	77
Barley				
Harvested .....	93	83	61	64
Camelina				
Harvested .....	65	46	50	62
Canola				
Harvested .....	83	71	55	52
Corn				
Harvested for silage .....	6	3	4	8
Dry beans				
Harvested .....	87	74	36	35
Durum wheat				
Harvested .....	68	35	16	34
Flaxseed				
Harvested .....	92	65	6	42
Lentils				
Harvested .....	91	85	72	79
Mustard seed				
Harvested .....	77	66	34	47
Oats				
Harvested .....	77	68	63	64
Other hay				
Second cutting .....	64	55	58	63
Safflower				
Turning .....	63	34	64	82
Spring wheat				
Harvested .....	85	69	44	49
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	17	13	2	8
Receiving supplemental feed .....	8	8	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	17	14	7	10
Receiving supplemental feed .....	8	8	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.....	6.8	6.2	3.5	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	15	5	16
Short.....	40	38	11	36
Adequate.....	38	41	59	42
Surplus.....	6	6	25	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	14	3	13
Short.....	39	38	15	32
Adequate.....	39	39	69	51
Surplus.....	8	9	13	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.....	3	1	--	1
Poor.....	7	7	3	4
Fair.....	32	33	30	31
Good.....	46	47	52	49
Excellent.....	12	12	15	15
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	6	6	5	NA
Poor.....	24	26	11	NA
Fair.....	31	27	39	NA
Good.....	37	39	44	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	1	NA
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	20	20	5	NA
Good.....	53	53	73	NA
Excellent.....	27	27	22	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	11	10	4	11
Poor.....	24	22	13	14
Fair.....	44	45	33	32
Good.....	20	21	37	33
Excellent.....	1	2	13	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	4
Fair.....	29	29	12	28
Good.....	49	50	46	47
Excellent.....	14	13	40	20

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\\_08302015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_08302015.pdf)