

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A mostly dry, warm week ended in much cooler temperatures with thunderstorms producing locally heavy rain and even hail over Labor Day weekend in Montana. Reporters note that the rainfall was much needed but more will be needed to allow for good winter wheat seeding conditions. Harvest of corn for silage is underway with 14 percent harvested which is just slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 13 percent. Harvest of small grains is wrapping up with 95 percent of barley, 87 percent of durum wheat, 86 percent of oats, and 92 percent of spring wheat harvested this week. Lentil harvest is nearing completion with 96 percent harvested compared with a 5-year average of 86 percent. Pasture and range conditions held steady last week due to cooler temperatures and precipitation by the end of the week with 21 percent rated good to excellent, but remains behind last year's 50 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 21 percent of cattle and 27 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 13 percent and 16 percent respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	88	80	86	86
Barley				
Harvested	95	93	85	79
Camelina				
Harvested	81	65	54	76
Canola				
Harvested	88	83	65	69
Corn				
Harvested for silage	14	6	8	13
Dry beans				
Harvested	88	87	41	42
Durum wheat				
Harvested	87	68	27	44
Flaxseed				
Harvested	94	92	13	57
Lentils				
Harvested	96	91	83	86
Mustard seed				
Harvested	82	77	39	63
Oats				
Harvested	86	77	82	77
Other hay				
Second cutting	71	64	65	74
Safflower				
Turning	81	63	85	93
Spring wheat				
Harvested	92	85	63	64
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	21	17	4	13
Receiving supplemental feed	9	8	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	27	17	10	16
Receiving supplemental feed	11	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.....	5.7	6.8	5.4	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	16	2	17
Short.....	39	40	11	31
Adequate.....	38	38	69	46
Surplus.....	7	6	18	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	14	3	14
Short.....	38	39	13	30
Adequate.....	40	39	73	52
Surplus.....	8	8	11	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	3	--	1
Poor.....	7	7	3	5
Fair.....	32	32	30	30
Good.....	44	46	52	49
Excellent.....	14	12	15	15
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	18	20	5	NA
Good.....	55	53	73	NA
Excellent.....	27	27	22	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	11	11	4	11
Poor.....	24	24	13	15
Fair.....	44	44	33	31
Good.....	20	20	37	33
Excellent.....	1	1	13	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	6
Fair.....	29	29	12	25
Good.....	49	49	46	48
Excellent.....	14	14	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_09062015.pdf