

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 13, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana was warm and dry this week with minimal precipitation and high temperatures ranging from the lower 80s to mid 90s and lows ranging from the lower 20s to lower 40s. Producers able to get second cuttings of hay this year are wrapping up with 95 percent of alfalfa and 74 percent of the other hay harvested. Sugarbeet harvest has begun ahead of the 5-year average with 2 percent harvested. Potato producers have also begun to harvest this fall's crop with 2 percent harvested, which is at the same rate as last year but behind the 5-year average of 8 percent harvested. Harvest of small grains is nearing completion with 94 percent of durum wheat, 87 percent of oats, and 95 percent of spring wheat harvested this week. Winter wheat seedings have begun slightly behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average with 18 percent seeded so far. Pasture and range conditions declined slightly from the previous week due to hot temperatures and a lack of precipitation with 20 percent rated good to excellent which remains behind last year's 52 percent and the 5-year average of 42 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 27 percent of cattle and 36 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 20 percent and 25 percent respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	95	88	90	90
Camelina				
Harvested	95	81	59	83
Canola				
Harvested	94	88	70	78
Corn				
Harvested for silage	22	14	26	24
Dry beans				
Harvested	90	88	44	50
Durum wheat				
Harvested	94	87	37	57
Flaxseed				
Harvested	95	94	15	69
Mustard seed				
Harvested	84	82	42	74
Oats				
Harvested	87	86	88	87
Other hay				
Second cutting	74	71	74	82
Potatoes				
Harvested	2	--	2	8
Safflower				
Turning	96	81	94	98
Harvested	5	--	1	23
Spring wheat				
Harvested	95	92	72	75
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	2	--	2	1
Winter wheat				
Planted	18	--	20	13
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	27	21	15	20
Receiving supplemental feed	16	9	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	36	27	21	25
Receiving supplemental feed	18	11	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.....	6.6	5.7	4.0	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	19	16	2	19
Short.....	36	39	11	27
Adequate.....	38	38	72	46
Surplus.....	7	7	15	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	14	3	17
Short.....	37	38	12	28
Adequate.....	40	40	73	50
Surplus.....	8	8	12	5

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	44	51	48
Excellent.....	14	14	16	16
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	18	18	5	NA
Good.....	55	55	73	NA
Excellent.....	27	27	22	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	11	11	3	11
Poor.....	24	24	13	16
Fair.....	45	44	32	31
Good.....	19	20	38	33
Excellent.....	1	1	14	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	6
Fair.....	29	29	15	27
Good.....	47	49	43	47
Excellent.....	16	14	40	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_09132015.pdf