

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 20, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Much of the week was fall-like with drastically cooler temperatures and heavy rain across many parts of Montana before warming back up for the end of the week. The rain was very beneficial to producers seeding winter wheat in the areas it fell but others are still delayed in starting due to lack of moisture. Corn harvest is underway for both grain and silage with 4 percent of corn for grain and 30 percent of corn for silage harvested so far. Sugarbeet harvest continues ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 3 percent with 8 percent harvested this year. Potato producers are steadily harvesting with 8 percent harvested with some reports of blight coming in from the southwestern portion of the State. Harvest of small grains was slowed by rain in many areas with 95 percent of durum wheat and 88 percent of oats harvested this week. Winter wheat seedings continue slightly behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average with 38 percent seeded and the new crop is just beginning to emerge. Pasture and range conditions held steady with the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent which remains behind last year's 53 percent and the 5-year average of 41 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 33 percent of cattle and 43 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 26 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canola | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 95 | 94 | 85 | 88 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for grain..... | 4 | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Harvested for silage..... | 30 | 22 | 44 | 38 |
| Dry beans | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 93 | 90 | 62 | 62 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 95 | 94 | 54 | 65 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 92 | 84 | 54 | 79 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 88 | 87 | 93 | 91 |
| Other hay | | | | |
| Second cutting..... | 79 | 74 | 78 | 86 |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 8 | 2 | 11 | 14 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 13 | 5 | 10 | 34 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted..... | 38 | 18 | 42 | 32 |
| Emerged..... | 1 | NA | 2 | 2 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from summer range..... | 33 | 27 | 21 | 26 |
| Receiving supplemental feed..... | 20 | 16 | NA | NA |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Moved from summer range..... | 43 | 36 | 30 | 33 |
| Receiving supplemental feed..... | 20 | 18 | 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..... | 5.4 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 5.5 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 15 | 19 | 1 | 19 |
| Short..... | 34 | 36 | 12 | 26 |
| Adequate..... | 44 | 38 | 74 | 47 |
| Surplus..... | 7 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 15 | 15 | 2 | 16 |
| Short..... | 36 | 37 | 12 | 27 |
| Adequate..... | 40 | 40 | 76 | 53 |
| Surplus..... | 9 | 8 | 10 | 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 | 32 | 31 |
| Good..... | 44 | 44 | 50 | 46 |
| Excellent..... | 14 | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | -- | NA |
| Poor..... | 1 | -- | -- | NA |
| Fair..... | 19 | 18 | 4 | NA |
| Good..... | 56 | 55 | 74 | NA |
| Excellent..... | 24 | 27 | 22 | NA |
| Pasture and Range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 11 | 11 | 3 | 11 |
| Poor..... | 24 | 24 | 13 | 17 |
| Fair..... | 45 | 45 | 31 | 31 |
| Good..... | 18 | 19 | 39 | 32 |
| Excellent..... | 2 | 1 | 14 | 9 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Poor..... | 8 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| Fair..... | 29 | 29 | 15 | 28 |
| Good..... | 47 | 47 | 44 | 45 |
| Excellent..... | 16 | 16 | 39 | 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_09202015.pdf