

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
 October 13, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana was cool and wet in places for the first part of the week before turning hot and dry for the rest with highs ranging from the upper 70s to the lower 90s and lows from the upper teens to upper 30s. Yellowtail recorded the largest accumulation of precipitation with 0.98 of an inch of moisture but precipitation was hit and miss across the entire state with some areas receiving none. The region along the Rocky Mountain Front had high winds much of the weekend in addition to hot, dry conditions which could be hard on newly seeded winter wheat. Corn harvest continues for both grain and silage with 33 percent of corn for grain and 93 percent of corn for silage harvested, which is ahead of the 5-year averages of 15 percent and 86 percent respectively. Sugarbeet harvest suffered some delays this week due to moisture early in the week and heat at the end of the week but producers had harvested 23 percent which is ahead of last year's 15 percent but behind the 5-year average of 30 percent. Potato producers are steadily harvesting with 72 percent harvested, which is ahead of both last year's 52 percent and the 5-year average of 59 percent. Winter wheat seedings continue ahead of last year and ahead of the 5-year average despite less than ideal precipitation levels in many areas with 92 percent seeded and 63 percent emerged. Pasture and range conditions declined slightly from the previous week with 19 percent rated good to excellent which remains well behind last year's 53 percent and the 5-year average of 39 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 58 percent of cattle and 73 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 52 percent and 61 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for grain | 33 | 25 | 30 | 15 |
| Harvested for silage | 93 | 89 | 94 | 86 |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Harvested | 72 | 60 | 52 | 59 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Harvested | 54 | 50 | 52 | 65 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Harvested | 23 | 22 | 15 | 30 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 92 | 86 | 90 | 80 |
| Emerged..... | 63 | 36 | 48 | 39 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from summer range | 58 | 49 | 52 | 52 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 26 | 25 | 1 | NA |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Moved from summer range | 73 | 62 | 71 | 61 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 29 | 28 | 1 | 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..... | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.3 | NA |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 15 | 16 | 2 | 11 |
| Short..... | 30 | 30 | 13 | 24 |
| Adequate..... | 48 | 47 | 78 | 60 |
| Surplus..... | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 15 | 15 | 2 | 14 |
| Short..... | 34 | 34 | 13 | 26 |
| Adequate..... | 42 | 42 | 77 | 57 |
| Surplus..... | 9 | 9 | 8 | 3 |

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..... | 6 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| Fair..... | 34 | 33 | 30 | 29 |
| Good..... | 44 | 45 | 53 | 47 |
| Excellent..... | 13 | 13 | 15 | 18 |
| Pasture and Range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 13 | 12 | 3 | 13 |
| Poor..... | 27 | 26 | 12 | 16 |
| Fair..... | 41 | 42 | 32 | 32 |
| Good..... | 18 | 18 | 41 | 32 |
| Excellent..... | 1 | 2 | 12 | 7 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Poor..... | 8 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 28 | 15 | 27 |
| Good..... | 47 | 48 | 41 | 48 |
| Excellent..... | 17 | 16 | 42 | 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_10112015.pdf