

# 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 OCTOBER 18, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana was dry and cool for much of the week before seeing a return to warmer daytime temperatures toward the end of the week. High temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to the upper 80s but most stations had freezing lows that ranged from the mid teens to mid 30s with very few stations reporting measurable precipitation. Corn harvest continues for both grain and silage with 41 percent of corn for grain and 95 percent of corn for silage harvested, which is ahead of the 5-year averages of 23 percent and 93 percent respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed with 46 percent which is behind last year's 49 percent and the 5-year average of 54 percent. Potato producers are harvesting with 76 percent harvested, which is ahead of both last year's 55 percent and the 5-year average of 74 percent. Winter wheat seedings are behind last year at this time but remain ahead of the 5-year average despite less than ideal precipitation levels in many areas with 95 percent seeded and 77 percent emerged. Pasture and range conditions were unchanged 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 40 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 69 percent of cattle and 80 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 62 percent and 72 percent, respectively.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	41	33	44	23
Harvested for silage .....	95	93	99	93
Potatoes				
Harvested .....	76	72	55	74
Safflower				
Harvested .....	58	54	76	77
Sugarbeets				
Harvested .....	46	23	49	54
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	95	92	96	88
Emerged.....	77	63	70	54
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	69	58	63	62
Receiving supplemental feed .....	29	26	9	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	80	73	79	72
Receiving supplemental feed .....	32	29	23	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.....	7.0	5.8	6.3	5.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	15	2	10
Short.....	30	30	14	25
Adequate.....	48	48	77	60
Surplus.....	7	7	7	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	15	2	14
Short.....	31	34	14	26
Adequate.....	45	42	76	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)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	3	3	--	1
Poor.....	6	6	2	4
Fair.....	34	34	31	30
Good.....	44	44	52	48
Excellent.....	13	13	15	17
<b>Pasture and Range</b>				
Very poor.....	12	13	3	13
Poor.....	27	27	12	14
Fair.....	42	41	32	33
Good.....	18	18	41	32
Excellent.....	1	1	12	8
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	5
Fair.....	28	28	15	28
Good.....	47	47	41	48
Excellent.....	17	17	42	18
<b>Winter Wheat</b>				
Very poor.....	1	NA	--	NA
Poor.....	2	NA	1	NA
Fair.....	25	NA	17	NA
Good.....	56	NA	56	NA
Excellent.....	16	NA	26	NA

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\\_10182015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_10182015.pdf)