

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 October 26, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana had a week of mild, fall conditions with scattered precipitation and high temperatures ranging from the upper 50s to the lower 80s and lows ranging from the lower teens to lower 30s. Most stations in the state received measurable precipitation, with the exception of much of the north central region, and the highest amount recorded this week was in Wilsall with 1.02 inches of moisture. Overall, it was a good week for fall harvest of crops still being harvested around the state. Corn harvested for grain is well underway with 50 percent harvested, which is behind last year's 61 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 35 percent. Sugarbeet harvest continues with 69 percent, which is behind last year's 76 percent and the 5-year average of 80 percent. Potato producers are harvesting with 78 percent harvested, which is ahead of last year's 62 percent but behind the 5-year average of 85 percent. Winter wheat emergence is at 84 percent, which is behind of last year's 88 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 67 percent. Pasture and range conditions were unchanged from the previous week with 19 percent rated good to excellent, which remains well behind last year's 52 percent and the 5-year average of 40 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 79 percent of cattle and 86 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 72 percent and 80 percent, respectively.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	50	41	61	35
Potatoes				
Harvested .....	78	76	62	85
Safflower				
Harvested .....	71	58	84	89
Sugarbeets				
Harvested .....	69	46	76	80
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	97	95	99	93
Emerged .....	84	77	88	67
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	79	69	71	72
Receiving supplemental feed .....	30	29	13	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	86	80	84	80
Receiving supplemental feed .....	33	32	27	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.....	6.2	7.0	6.5	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	15	3	10
Short.....	30	30	17	29
Adequate.....	50	48	73	57
Surplus.....	7	7	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	15	3	14
Short.....	31	31	16	26
Adequate.....	46	45	73	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	34	30	32
Good.....	44	44	53	45
Excellent.....	13	13	15	17
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	12	12	3	13
Poor.....	28	27	11	14
Fair.....	41	42	34	33
Good.....	18	18	41	33
Excellent.....	1	1	11	7
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	1
Poor.....	2	2	1	5
Fair.....	23	25	22	34
Good.....	58	56	48	50
Excellent.....	17	16	29	10

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\\_10252015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_10252015.pdf)