

# 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  
 November 9, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 8, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana had its first winter storm of the season early in the week which brought rain and snow to many locations, as well as cool daytime temperatures and freezing lows. High temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to upper 60s and low temperatures ranged from -1 to the upper 20s. Nearly all reporting stations in the State received measurable precipitation and the highest recorded this week was in Libby with 1.98 inches of moisture. Corn harvested for grain continues with 71 percent harvested, which is behind last year's 84 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 63 percent. Sugarbeet harvest is wrapping up with 96 percent complete, which is behind last year's 100 percent and the 5-year average of 99 percent. Potato harvest advanced to 90 percent complete, which is the same rate as last year but behind the 5-year average of 97 percent. Winter wheat emergence is at 95 percent, which is behind last year's 98 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 84 percent. Winter wheat condition is rated 73 percent good to excellent, compared with 72 percent last year and the 5-year average of 57 percent. Reporters are noting some instances of wheat streak mosaic and powdery mildew showing up in the new winter wheat crop. Pasture and range conditions improved slightly from the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent, which remains well behind last year's 48 percent and the 5-year average of 37 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 92 percent of cattle and 95 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 86 percent and 91 percent, respectively. Livestock are also receiving supplemental feed at higher rates than the previous year with 40 percent of cattle and 43 percent of sheep being fed.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	71	60	84	63
Potatoes				
Harvested .....	90	82	90	97
Safflower				
Harvested .....	80	76	96	96
Sugarbeets				
Harvested .....	96	87	100	99
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	95	91	98	84
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	92	85	86	86
Receiving supplemental feed .....	40	36	20	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	95	91	91	91
Receiving supplemental feed .....	43	35	35	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.....	4.3	6.2	5.9	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	11	4	7
Short.....	24	32	21	27
Adequate.....	59	50	68	62
Surplus.....	7	7	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	12	3	11
Short.....	33	34	18	27
Adequate.....	47	45	72	59
Surplus.....	9	9	7	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	12	12	3	12
Poor.....	29	29	14	16
Fair.....	39	40	35	35
Good.....	19	18	39	31
Excellent.....	1	1	9	6
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	2	2	2	5
Fair.....	25	25	26	37
Good.....	57	56	44	44
Excellent.....	16	17	28	13

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\\_11082015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_11082015.pdf)