

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
 November 16, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Unseasonably warmer temperatures followed much colder weather across the State of Montana and many areas experienced scattered precipitation as well. High temperatures ranged from the lower 40s to lower 70s and low temperatures ranged from -3 to the lower 30s. Precipitation was hit or miss across the State but many stations received measurable precipitation, with the highest recorded this week in Yaak with 1.86 inches of moisture. Corn harvested for grain continued with 74 percent harvested, which is behind last year's 89 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 70 percent. Potato harvest was wrapping up with 95 percent complete, which is ahead of last year's 94 percent complete but behind the 5-year average of 99 percent. Winter wheat emergence is at 96 percent, which is behind last year's 100 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 89 percent. Winter wheat condition is rated 73 percent good to excellent, compared with 70 percent last year and the 5-year average of 52 percent. Pasture and range conditions were unchanged from the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent, which remains well behind last year's 44 percent and the 5-year average of 36 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 95 percent of cattle moved compared with a 5-year average of 91 percent. Livestock are receiving supplemental feed at slightly lower rates than the previous year with 42 percent of cattle and 47 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	74	71	89	70
Potatoes				
Harvested	95	90	94	99
Safflower				
Harvested	90	80	99	99
Winter wheat				
Emerged	96	95	100	89
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	95	92	91	91
Receiving supplemental feed	42	40	43	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	47	43	50	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.....	5.1	4.3	1.6	3.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	10	4	6
Short.....	23	24	21	27
Adequate.....	60	59	67	63
Surplus.....	7	7	8	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	11	3	11
Short.....	32	33	18	28
Adequate.....	47	47	72	58
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	11
Poor.....	29	29	14	16
Fair.....	39	39	39	37
Good.....	19	19	36	30
Excellent.....	1	1	8	6
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	2	2	2	5
Fair.....	25	25	28	42
Good.....	57	57	43	38
Excellent.....	16	16	27	14

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_11152015.pdf