

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 30, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Wintery conditions were the norm for Montana this week with varying amounts of snow in many locations and bitterly cold temperatures for much of the State. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s to the upper 50s and low temperatures ranged from -24 degrees to 11 degrees. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was limited, but most stations received measurable precipitation, with the highest recorded this week in Fort Benton with 0.34 of an inch of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 67 percent adequate to surplus which is behind both last year's 77 percent and the 5-year average of 68 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 57 percent adequate to surplus which is below the 5-year average of 65 percent at this time as well as last year's 80 percent. Corn harvested for grain continued with 79 percent harvested, which is behind last year's 95 percent and the 5-year average of 83 percent. Winter wheat condition is rated 73 percent good to excellent, compared with 73 percent last year and the 5-year average of 54 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 42 percent and the 5-year average of 35 percent. Cold weather and snow have more producers providing supplemental feed at higher rates than the previous year with 67 percent of cattle and 79 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 66 percent and 69 percent, respectively, last year.

Note: This report concludes the weekly crop progress report for 2015. Next year's Montana weekly report will begin in April 2016.

Monthly reports will be released for December on Monday, January 4, 2016; for January on Monday, February 1, 2016; for February on Monday, February 29, 2016; and for March on Monday, March 28, 2016.

Our thanks to the weekly reporters for providing crop progress observations during the 2015 season.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	79	78	95	83
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	67	49	66	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	79	55	69	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.....	1.5	3.9	1.6	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	10	3	7
Short.....	23	24	20	25
Adequate.....	60	59	69	63
Surplus.....	7	7	8	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	12	3	10
Short.....	31	32	17	25
Adequate.....	48	47	73	62
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.....	13	13	3	12
Poor.....	27	28	15	17
Fair.....	40	39	40	36
Good.....	19	19	34	30
Excellent.....	1	1	8	5
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	2	2	2	4
Fair.....	25	25	25	41
Good.....	57	57	46	44
Excellent.....	16	16	27	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_11292015.pdf