

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
 August 28, 2017

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Extremely dry weather persisted across much of the State last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from 82 to 100 degrees. Low temperatures ranged from 28 degrees to the low 50s. The highest amount of precipitation was recorded in Biddle with only 0.36 inches of moisture. Other stations recorded between zero and 0.28 of an inch of moisture, with 41 stations recording no precipitation and 59 stations receiving between 0.01 and 0.25 of an inch. Crop conditions continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Soil moisture conditions were recorded with 97 percent of topsoil rated very short to short and 89 percent of subsoil rated very short to short, compared with 43 percent of topsoil last year rated very short to short and 46 percent of subsoil last year rated very short to short. Reporters noted pasture fires due to dry conditions, which combined with wildfires, contributed to poor air quality. Low yields were reported on winter wheat, but with good protein levels.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	95	88	87	79
Barley				
Harvested for grain	87	72	80	75
Camelina				
Coloring	70	50	77	95
Harvested	37	17	31	42
Canola				
Harvested	83	62	48	57
Corn				
Harvested for Silage	3	--	6	7
Dry edible beans				
Harvested	76	70	77	52
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	94	89	91	89
Durum wheat				
Harvested for grain	81	75	63	46
Flaxseed				
Harvested	78	64	24	37
Mustard seed				
Coloring	96	92	NA	NA
Harvested	74	59	63	52
Oats				
Coloring	96	93	NA	NA
Harvested	78	72	81	71
Other hay				
Second cutting	75	64	82	65
Safflower				
Blooming	85	80	NA	NA
Coloring	56	50	77	75
Harvested	9	2	21	NA
Spring wheat				
Coloring	98	94	NA	NA
Harvested for grain	85	66	70	61
Cattle and Calves				
Moved from summer pasture	14	13	20	12
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer pasture	16	13	20	14

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 field work	6.6	6.8	6.0	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	73	78	15	20
Short	24	20	28	31
Adequate	3	2	52	41
Surplus	--	--	5	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	53	62	15	17
Short	36	28	31	32
Adequate	11	9	51	45
Surplus	--	1	3	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Camelina				
Very poor	28	28	--	NA
Poor	18	18	1	NA
Fair	52	46	38	NA
Good	2	8	59	NA
Excellent	--	--	2	NA
Corn				
Very poor	8	8	--	2
Poor	15	16	3	6
Fair	50	51	30	32
Good	26	24	53	45
Excellent	1	1	14	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor	41	42	14	14
Poor	26	25	21	20
Fair	25	27	34	34
Good	8	6	26	26
Excellent	--	--	5	6
Potatoes				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor	1	1	2	NA
Fair	10	10	5	NA
Good	53	56	48	NA
Excellent	36	33	45	NA
Safflower				
Very poor	32	29	--	1
Poor	26	29	--	2
Fair	42	41	7	29
Good	--	1	78	58
Excellent	--	--	15	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	2	2	--	1
Poor	11	11	1	4
Fair	57	56	17	23
Good	28	29	65	53
Excellent	2	2	17	19

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/2017/MT_Weather_08272017.pdf