

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE

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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 28, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of above average temperatures with scattered rainfall, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Much of the State received 0.4 inches or less of rainfall. Localized areas, however, received over an inch of rainfall, while other areas remained very dry with only trace amounts of precipitation received. In Pondera County, some areas received over 2 inches of rain, while other portions of county received only 0.25 inches. Sweet Grass County reported spotty rainfall, with some areas receiving much needed moisture and other areas in the county remaining dry. Once again, daily temperatures were unseasonably warm for the majority of the State. Temperatures ranged from 4 to 8 degrees above average in most counties. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 25, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry increased to cover 35.5 percent of the State, compared to 30.9 percent last week. Moderate drought conditions increased slightly from 16.1 percent last week to 16.4 percent of the State this week. Severe drought and extreme drought conditions remained unchanged at 11.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively. Overall, 67.4 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, an increase from 62.5 percent last week.

Blaine County reported hot and dry conditions this week, with continued reports of grasshoppers. Producers are beginning to haul water to livestock and pastures are very dry. Valley County reported similar hot and dry conditions, with comments of severe grasshopper pressure. Judith Basin County received a few showers this week, but overall remains very dry. Ponds and reservoirs are drying up and the water table is very low, causing wells and springs to run dry. The non-irrigated hay crop yield in the county was below average, and without significant fall moisture, the outlook for next year is bleak. Reports from Richland County indicated continued crop and rangeland damage due to grasshoppers. In Sweet Grass County, the barley crop was cut for forage due to poor growing conditions. Barley, canola, mustard seed, and oat harvest is progressing similarly to last year, with harvest reported at 75 percent, 58 percent, 55 percent, and 69 percent complete, respectively. Corn harvested for silage, dry edible bean, safflower, and flaxseed harvest is progressing ahead of last year. Harvest is reported at 17 percent for corn harvested for silage, compared to 9 percent this time last year, 70 percent complete for dry edible beans, compared to 57 percent this time last year, 63 percent complete for flaxseed, compared to 55 percent this time last year, and 30 percent complete for safflower, compared to 19 percent this time last year. Durum wheat, lentils, and spring wheat harvest is progressing behind last year. Harvest is reported at 61 percent complete for durum wheat, compared to 66 percent this time last year, 85 percent complete for lentils, compared to 93 percent this time last year, and 75 percent complete for spring wheat, compared to 83 percent this time last year. The second cutting of alfalfa hay is slightly behind last year, with harvest reported at 82 percent complete compared to 86 percent this time last year. The second cutting of other hay is slightly ahead of last year, with harvest reported at 75 percent complete, compared to 67 percent this time last year. Dry edible pea and winter wheat harvest is nearing completion, with harvest reported at 99 percent complete for both crops. Planting of the 2023 winter wheat crop began this week, with planting reported at 2 percent complete.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 82 | 78 | 86 | NA |
| Barley | | | | |
| Harvested | 75 | 59 | 77 | 71 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Harvested | 58 | 40 | 56 | 49 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for silage | 17 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas) | | | | |
| Harvested | 70 | 51 | 57 | 50 |
| Dry edible peas | | | | |
| Harvested | 99 | 91 | 97 | 89 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 61 | 38 | 66 | 53 |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Harvested | 63 | 41 | 55 | 42 |
| Lentils | | | | |
| Harvested | 85 | 76 | 93 | NA |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Harvested | 55 | 38 | 53 | 48 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Harvested | 69 | 59 | 69 | 64 |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 75 | 67 | 67 | 68 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Turning color | 99 | 81 | 83 | 65 |
| Harvested | 30 | 26 | 19 | 11 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 75 | 52 | 83 | 68 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Harvested | 99 | 92 | 98 | 92 |
| Planted | 2 | NA | -- | -- |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for field work | 6.0 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 6.3 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 35 | 42 | 44 | 32 |
| Short | 42 | 40 | 45 | 37 |
| Adequate | 23 | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| Surplus | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 35 | 43 | 62 | 31 |
| Short | 47 | 44 | 29 | 39 |
| Adequate | 18 | 13 | 9 | 29 |
| Surplus | -- | -- | -- | 1 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION¹

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Barley | | | | |
| Very poor | 9 | 6 | NA | NA |
| Poor | 22 | 24 | NA | NA |
| Fair | 38 | 40 | NA | NA |
| Good | 30 | 29 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Canola | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | 3 | 13 | NA |
| Poor | 2 | 10 | 17 | NA |
| Fair | 45 | 44 | 40 | NA |
| Good | 43 | 38 | 30 | NA |
| Excellent | 10 | 5 | -- | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor | 3 | 2 | 16 | 4 |
| Poor | 5 | 5 | 18 | 9 |
| Fair | 19 | 20 | 37 | 29 |
| Good | 71 | 71 | 29 | 49 |
| Excellent | 2 | 2 | -- | 9 |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Poor | 7 | 5 | NA | NA |
| Fair | 65 | 64 | NA | NA |
| Good | 20 | 25 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 7 | 5 | NA | NA |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | 4 | 15 | NA |
| Poor | 15 | 11 | 40 | NA |
| Fair | 54 | 45 | 40 | NA |
| Good | 31 | 40 | 5 | NA |
| Excellent | -- | -- | -- | NA |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | -- | 11 | NA |
| Poor | 20 | 11 | 28 | NA |
| Fair | 70 | 79 | 55 | NA |
| Good | 9 | 10 | 4 | NA |
| Excellent | -- | -- | 2 | NA |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | 36 | 13 |
| Poor | 18 | 9 | 38 | 15 |
| Fair | 52 | 55 | 26 | 35 |
| Good | 25 | 31 | -- | 34 |
| Excellent | 5 | 5 | -- | 3 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 21 | 23 | 49 | 24 |
| Poor | 25 | 20 | 41 | 24 |
| Fair | 30 | 29 | 10 | 24 |
| Good | 24 | 28 | -- | 21 |
| Excellent | -- | -- | -- | 7 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 3 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Poor | 15 | 19 | NA | NA |
| Fair | 41 | 49 | NA | NA |
| Good | 39 | 30 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 2 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| Poor | 1 | 1 | 16 | 9 |
| Fair | 25 | 31 | 40 | 29 |
| Good | 72 | 65 | 35 | 47 |
| Excellent | 1 | 2 | -- | 11 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero