

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 SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures during the week were well above average, with little to no precipitation across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Rainfall was limited to localized pockets of northern Montana, which afforded producers ample time for fieldwork, as evidenced by double-digit harvest progress for many crops. Comments from several counties noted hot, dry conditions, with little to no forecasted rain. Irrigation water was noted to be short in some counties. Fire danger was high. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 30, extreme drought (D3) was noted across 3.6 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 11.9 percent, and moderate drought (D1) was present across 25.7 percent. Abnormally dry conditions existed across 36.2 percent of Montana. Under abnormally dry weather conditions, the area categorized as drought-free decreased to 22.6 percent of the State.

Reports from Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties indicated that forest fires resulted in a heavy smoke presence along the Bitterroot, which will most likely lead to drying issues for growers with hay on the ground. In Valley County, producers were wrapping up harvest, although comments indicated grasshoppers continued to plague the area. Additionally, most growers were waiting to seed their 2023 winter wheat crop until some much-needed moisture was received. Conditions in Powder River, Roosevelt, and Wibaux Counties paralleled those noted above – hot, dry, and windy, with a large grasshopper population. Statewide, livestock producers were beginning to bring their herds back from summer pastures, although at 4 percent, progress was behind that from last year for both cattle and sheep. The State’s canola, corn for silage, dry edible bean, Durum wheat, flaxseed, mustard seed, oat, safflower, and spring wheat harvests were advancing ahead of the average pace, while the barley and other hay harvests were slightly behind normal.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	99	82	91	NA
Barley				
Harvested.....	80	75	88	81
Canola				
Harvested.....	75	58	67	60
Corn				
Harvested for silage	20	17	19	18
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	72	70	74	63
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	81	61	78	66
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	70	63	68	54
Lentils				
Harvested.....	93	85	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	75	55	65	62
Oats				
Harvested.....	80	69	83	78
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	77	75	78	78
Safflower				
Harvested.....	40	30	29	22
Spring wheat				
Harvested.....	87	75	94	80
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	4	2	3	2
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	4	NA	27	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	3	NA	22	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	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	40	35	54	36
Short	45	42	39	35
Adequate.....	15	23	7	27
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	29	35	66	33
Short	56	47	30	36
Adequate.....	15	18	4	30
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor	3	3	15	4
Poor	5	5	20	10
Fair.....	19	19	35	27
Good	71	71	29	49
Excellent	2	2	1	10
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	32	10
Poor	19	18	45	17
Fair.....	47	52	23	35
Good	20	25	--	34
Excellent	14	5	--	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	17	21	52	25
Poor	26	25	35	22
Fair.....	36	30	13	25
Good	21	24	--	23
Excellent	--	--	--	5
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	1	11	5
Poor	1	1	16	9
Fair.....	22	25	40	28
Good	76	72	33	46
Excellent	1	1	--	12

NA – not available

(--) – zero