

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 25, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana received minimal precipitation this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The majority of the State received less than 0.3 inches of rainfall, while scattered areas throughout the State received between 0.3 and 0.6 inches of rainfall. Counties along the western border, including portions of Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Sanders, and Ravalli Counties, received over an inch and a half of rainfall, with localized areas receiving over 2 inches. Temperatures this week were slightly cooler and closer to expected temperatures for this time of year. Average daily temperatures ranged from average to 2 degrees warmer than average in most areas of the State. Counties along the eastern border and in the southeastern corner of the State were slightly warmer, with average temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer than usual. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 22, 2022, 91.2 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions – a 7.9 percent increase from 84.5 percent last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry decreased to cover 21.8 percent of the State, compared to 27.6 percent last week, while moderate drought conditions increased to 27.9 percent of the State, compared to 19.1 percent last week. Severe drought was present across 37.9 percent of the State, compared to 34.2 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions remained unchanged at 3.6 percent of the state.

Conditions in Valley County remain unchanged, with continued reports of very dry conditions and grasshoppers. Moisture received in Judith Basin County was quickly dried up by winds, leaving much of the county very dry. Reports indicate wells and springs are drying up due to lack of moisture and cracks are appearing in the soil due to extremely dry soil conditions. There is concern that without fall moisture, there will be minimal grass and hay grown next season. Producers in Garfield County reported very poor crop conditions due to dry conditions and grasshopper damage. Forage and grain production in the county is minimal and soil is reported to be very dry, limiting fall seeding. Livestock producers in the county are beginning to wean and sell calves, which are reported to be lighter than usual. The second cutting of other hay is nearing completion, with harvest reported at 95 percent complete compared to 94 percent this time last year. Safflower harvest is progressing quickly, with harvest reported at 89 percent complete, compared to 59 percent complete this time last year. Winter wheat planting is continuing ahead of last year, with planting reported at 58 percent complete, compared to 40 percent complete this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for silage	46	43	53	57
Harvested for grain	17	14	11	7
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	95	90	94	NA
Safflower				
Harvested	89	81	59	46
Winter wheat				
Planted	58	35	40	27
Emerged	17	5	9	4
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	30	21	45	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	36	24	39	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	6.5	6.5	6.9	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	53	51	55	21
Short	42	41	43	32
Adequate	5	8	2	43
Surplus	--	--	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	50	44	70	30
Short	45	48	26	32
Adequate	5	8	4	35
Surplus	--	--	--	3

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	6	18	5
Poor	9	11	28	10
Fair	23	22	30	27
Good	62	59	22	48
Excellent	3	2	2	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	36	31	58	26
Poor	25	27	34	21
Fair	19	24	8	24
Good	20	18	--	22
Excellent	--	--	--	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	1	10	4
Poor	1	1	14	8
Fair	22	30	36	27
Good	75	66	38	45
Excellent	1	2	2	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero