

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 8, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of above average temperatures and below average precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were in a range of about 3-12 degrees above normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Western areas saw higher deviations from the average. Precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.15-0.3 inch or more below normal for much of Montana. Exceptions were in the southwest and in a few other isolated areas. Portions of Beaverhead County, and surrounding areas, received slightly above average amounts of moisture. Changes in drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Report released September 5. Abnormal dryness fell by one percentage point to 33 percent. Moderate drought increased to 45 percent, up from 43 percent the previous week. Severe drought conditions fell by 1 percentage point to 13 percent. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions were unchanged at 8 and 1 percent, respectively. Blister beetles were active in some fields in Big Horn County. Sugar beet pre-harvest activities were underway. The hot and dry conditions persisted in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Air quality was poor due to heavy smoke from forest fires. Conditions also remained hot and dry in Roosevelt County. An agent in Wibaux County reported that temperatures were high, along with strong winds, and no rain. Producers were purchasing the hay needed for supplemental feeding of livestock. Calves were shipping earlier than usual. Some farmers were seeing low yields in spring wheat fields due to grasshoppers and the drought. There were no reports of winter wheat seeding in the county as of yet. Farmers were hoping for rain before initiating fall planting.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	84	74	87	NA
Barley				
Harvested.....	89	68	88	86
Canola				
Harvested.....	75	55	67	68
Corn for silage				
Harvested.....	14	4	21	23
Dry edible beans				
Harvested.....	84	81	85	73
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	98	91	87	75
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	55	48	83	64
Lentils				
Harvested.....	85	78	92	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested.....	82	53	94	74
Oats				
Harvested.....	78	73	76	82
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	65	59	72	75
Safflower				
Coloring.....	58	54	72	NA
Harvested.....	21	19	24	30
Spring wheat				
Harvested.....	91	77	89	85
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	95	91	96	96
Planted.....	2	1	2	6
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	23	21	28	18
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	6	4	26	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	6.1	6.7	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	28	22	37	31
Short.....	53	55	40	40
Adequate.....	19	23	23	27
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	31	25	45	33
Short.....	50	53	32	37
Adequate.....	19	22	23	29
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	1	4
Poor	6	5	7	9
Fair	33	35	12	22
Good	57	56	69	57
Excellent	3	3	11	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	18	16	18	25
Poor	29	35	19	21
Fair	44	42	26	25
Good	8	7	32	25
Excellent	1	--	5	4
Safflower				
Very poor	2	1	--	4
Poor	4	5	--	14
Fair	58	57	32	35
Good	35	36	68	43
Excellent	1	1	--	4

¹Current conditions for Flaxseed and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(--) – zero