

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 OCTOBER 23, 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week was mild with scattered precipitation across Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Daytime high temperatures for the week ranged from the upper 40s to 73 degrees in Biddle. Overnight lows were from the mid-teens to the mid 30s with a statewide low of 15 degrees in Wisdom. Superior recorded the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 1.98 inches of moisture. Most other reporting stations reported receiving measurable precipitation but accumulation varied widely, from 0.01 to 1.85 inches of moisture. Muddy fields from previous weeks rain and snow storms slowed harvest progress across the state. Producers harvesting corn for grain remain ahead of normal with 54 percent complete compared with a 5-year average of 37 percent harvested, but corn for silage is slightly behind average with 95 percent harvested compared with a 5-year average of 97 percent completed. Winter wheat seeding continues with 89 percent complete which is well behind last year and the 5-year average. Winter wheat is now 78 percent emerged, behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average, and is currently rated 71 percent good to excellent condition compared with 75 percent last year. Potato harvest continues behind last year and the 5-year average with 63 percent harvested compared with 77 percent last year and the 5-year average of 80 percent harvested. Sugarbeet harvest continued in muddy fields and progress is behind both last year's rate and the 5-year average with 44 percent complete so far. Pasture and rangeland conditions maintained 31 percent rated good to excellent which was better than last year's 19 percent but still below the 5-year average of 33 percent. Livestock producers continue to move stock off summer pastures with 60 percent of cattle and calves moved and 79 percent of sheep and lambs moved. Livestock receiving supplemental feed remains well below last year with 11 percent of cattle and calves and 12 percent of sheep and lambs being fed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for Grain	54	34	47	37
Harvested for Silage	95	94	99	97
Flaxseed				
Harvested	91	86	100	99
Potatoes				
Harvested	63	59	77	80
Safflower				
Harvested	65	61	67	82
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	44	33	62	71
Winter Wheat				
Planted	89	84	96	92
Emergence	78	71	82	64
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	60	54	76	71
Receiving supplemental feed	11	10	30	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	79	75	84	80
Receiving supplemental feed	12	12	33	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.4	2.5	6.2	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	10	13	11
Short.....	17	16	30	31
Adequate.....	56	55	50	54
Surplus.....	18	19	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	11	14	16
Short.....	22	22	31	29
Adequate.....	56	56	46	51
Surplus.....	11	11	9	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	2
Poor.....	4	4	6	6
Fair.....	30	30	34	35
Good.....	53	53	44	40
Excellent.....	13	13	13	17
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	13	13	12	15
Poor.....	20	20	28	18
Fair.....	36	36	41	34
Good.....	27	27	18	27
Excellent.....	4	4	1	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	2	2	NA	NA
Fair.....	21	21	NA	NA
Good.....	67	67	NA	NA
Excellent.....	10	10	NA	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	1
Poor.....	3	3	2	6
Fair.....	26	25	23	39
Good.....	49	50	58	42
Excellent.....	22	21	17	12

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/2016/MT_Weather_10232016.pdf