

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 9, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and drought conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Custer, Powder River and Wibaux counties reported the grasshopper infestation continues to worsen, taking a continued toll on crops and pasture. Reporters also noted that drought conditions in several areas are causing the early sale of calves and advanced movement from summer pastures. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 41 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 54 percent in the previous week and 74 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 51 percent adequate to surplus compared to 70 percent the previous year. Barley harvest progresses slower than normal, with an estimated 10 percent of the crop harvested, behind the 5-year average of 31 percent. Dry edible peas and lentil harvest continues to progress slower than the 5-year average for both crops. An estimated 45 percent of the dry pea crop has been harvested, with a 5-year average of 60 percent. Lentil harvest is estimated at 31 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 45 percent. Durum wheat turning color is estimated at 68 percent complete, falling behind the previous year at 72 percent. The oilseed crop continues to progress well, with an estimated 50 percent of the flaxseed crop turning color, and mustard seed turning color is estimated at 88 percent complete. Oats turning color is estimated at 74 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 73 percent. Spring wheat turning color is estimated at 88 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 84 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 90 percent. Oat and spring wheat harvest continues, with an estimated 15 percent of both crops harvested. First cutting of other hay is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 93 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 34 percent of alfalfa and 24 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat harvest made progress this week, with an estimated 45 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 43 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 72 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 82 percent good to excellent, compared to 68 percent this time last year. Due to dry conditions, cattle and sheep moved from pasture started early, with an estimated 1 percent of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs moved from pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	34	19	15	53
Barley				
Turning color.....	95	80	90	NA
Harvested.....	10	1	4	31
Canola				
Turning color.....	83	71	73	83
Harvested.....	19	9	3	16
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	45	21	27	60
Durum wheat				
Turning color.....	68	50	72	84
Harvested.....	8	--	2	15
Flaxseed				
Turning color.....	50	40	64	74
Harvested.....	5	--	--	NA
Lentils				
Harvested.....	31	16	7	45
Mustard seed				
Turning color.....	88	65	81	NA
Oats				
Turning color.....	74	55	73	NA
Harvested.....	15	1	8	29
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	95	88	93	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	24	12	14	38
Safflower				
Blooming.....	80	64	67	74
Turning color.....	35	20	20	30
Spring wheat				
Turning color.....	88	69	84	90
Harvested.....	15	1	7	23
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	45	20	43	72
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	1	NA	NA	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.....	6.8	6.7	5.8	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	8	1	27
Short.....	46	38	25	28
Adequate.....	40	52	71	41
Surplus.....	1	2	3	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	8	1	20
Short.....	40	30	29	34
Adequate.....	50	60	69	43
Surplus.....	1	2	1	3

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.....	1	1	--	4
Poor.....	3	2	8	9
Fair.....	14	12	24	31
Good.....	53	53	53	43
Excellent.....	29	32	15	13
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	1
Poor.....	--	--	8	7
Fair.....	8	8	22	32
Good.....	70	74	62	50
Excellent.....	22	18	5	10
Dry peas				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	NA
Poor.....	1	2	4	NA
Fair.....	35	25	30	NA
Good.....	51	64	52	NA
Excellent.....	12	8	13	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	13
Poor.....	--	1	3	15
Fair.....	50	35	26	30
Good.....	45	55	52	35
Excellent.....	5	9	19	7
Lentils				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	1	1	4	NA
Fair.....	35	22	37	NA
Good.....	57	71	46	NA
Excellent.....	7	6	13	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	8
Poor.....	4	3	5	8
Fair.....	52	43	36	26
Good.....	40	51	53	50
Excellent.....	4	3	6	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	6	4	1	15
Poor.....	12	9	5	16
Fair.....	27	30	27	32
Good.....	46	51	57	32
Excellent.....	9	6	10	5
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	11
Poor.....	2	2	15	10
Fair.....	18	17	23	28
Good.....	59	65	50	42
Excellent.....	20	15	11	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	--	5
Fair.....	15	17	11	26
Good.....	75	72	75	53
Excellent.....	10	11	14	15
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	NA
Poor.....	1	--	13	NA
Fair.....	16	14	18	NA
Good.....	57	50	32	NA
Excellent.....	25	36	36	NA

¹Current conditions for Canola, Dry edible beans, Flaxseed, Mustard seed, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero