

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 17, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures and minimal moisture were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Golden Valley, Musselshell and Sweet Grass counties reported the dry weather and grasshopper infestation continues to take a toll on crops and pasture. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 34 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 41 percent in the previous week and 76 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 41 percent adequate to surplus compared to 76 percent the previous year. Barley harvest continues to progress slower than normal, with an estimated 27 percent of the crop harvested, behind the 5-year average of 49 percent. Dry edible peas and lentil harvest made great progress last week, with an estimated 66 percent of the dry pea crop and 60 percent of the lentil crop harvested, compared to the previous week at 45 percent and 31 percent, respectively. Durum wheat turning color is estimated at 86 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 80 percent. Durum wheat harvest progresses ahead of the previous year, with an estimated 20 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 10 percent the previous year. Oilseed harvest has begun, with an estimated 19 percent of flaxseed and 5 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested. Safflower harvest is estimated at 5 percent complete. Oats harvested is estimated at 25 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 17 percent, but behind the 5 year average of 45 percent. Spring wheat harvested is estimated at 35 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 17 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 38 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 49 percent of alfalfa and 41 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat harvest progressed well, with an estimated 60 percent of the crop harvested, but behind the previous year at 64 percent and the 5-year average of 84 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 86 percent good to excellent. Due to dry conditions, cattle and sheep moved from pasture has started early, with an estimated 3 percent of cattle and calves and 2 percent of 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	49	34	39	68
Barley				
Harvested	27	10	23	49
Canola				
Turning color	90	83	83	NA
Harvested	30	19	8	26
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	25	5	4	37
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	66	45	53	75
Durum wheat				
Turning color	86	68	80	91
Harvested	20	8	10	30
Flaxseed				
Turning color	62	50	77	85
Harvested	19	5	--	22
Lentils				
Harvested	60	31	23	62
Mustard seed				
Turning color	95	88	91	NA
Harvested	5	--	--	30
Oats				
Turning color	88	74	91	NA
Harvested	25	15	17	45
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	41	24	32	53
Safflower				
Blooming	95	80	79	NA
Turning color	50	35	32	43
Harvested	5	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Turning color	95	88	95	NA
Harvested	35	15	17	38
Winter wheat				
Harvested	60	45	64	84
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	3	1	--	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	2	1	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.....	6.9	6.8	5.2	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	13	2	26
Short.....	49	46	22	29
Adequate.....	33	40	72	41
Surplus.....	1	1	4	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	9	3	22
Short.....	47	40	21	31
Adequate.....	40	50	73	44
Surplus.....	1	1	3	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	3	NA
Poor.....	3	3	7	NA
Fair.....	19	14	25	NA
Good.....	52	53	50	NA
Excellent.....	26	29	15	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	3
Poor.....	--	--	8	8
Fair.....	5	8	21	32
Good.....	76	70	61	47
Excellent.....	19	22	5	10
Dry peas				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	NA
Poor.....	2	1	3	NA
Fair.....	23	35	21	NA
Good.....	57	51	57	NA
Excellent.....	17	12	18	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	2	NA
Fair.....	40	50	19	NA
Good.....	50	45	61	NA
Excellent.....	10	5	18	NA
Lentils				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor.....	1	1	2	NA
Fair.....	25	35	29	NA
Good.....	60	57	55	NA
Excellent.....	14	7	13	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	NA
Poor.....	4	4	2	NA
Fair.....	49	52	31	NA
Good.....	42	40	62	NA
Excellent.....	4	4	4	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	6	1	15
Poor.....	18	12	4	16
Fair.....	37	27	20	32
Good.....	32	46	58	30
Excellent.....	6	9	17	7
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	10
Poor.....	3	2	10	11
Fair.....	19	18	27	29
Good.....	55	59	52	41
Excellent.....	22	20	9	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	2	1
Poor.....	--	--	5	6
Fair.....	15	15	14	26
Good.....	74	75	66	53
Excellent.....	11	10	13	14
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	NA	NA
Poor.....	1	1	NA	NA
Fair.....	12	16	NA	NA
Good.....	46	57	NA	NA
Excellent.....	40	25	NA	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