

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 17, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced a very dry week and above normal temperatures according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Montana was predominantly dry according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Only isolated areas in the northeast and far south received slightly above average precipitation. Temperatures ran above normal except for isolated areas in the northeast. Temperatures were more than 5 degrees above average in parts of the State. Drought conditions persisted according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released September 14, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free once stood at 52 percent. Abnormal dryness was found in 9 percent of Montana. Moderate drought sat still at 13 percent. Severe and extreme conditions were found in 16 and 10 percent of the State, respectively, unchanged from the previous week. It was a dry week for farmers in Chouteau County and the majority of the 2023 crops had been harvested. Reported yields were predominantly very good. Only a few acreages of late-seeded grains remained to be gathered. After a delayed start, most farmers were hard at work planting winter wheat. In Custer County, many fall pastures were infested by grasshoppers, which resulted in poor grazing condition. Producers made heavy use of other pasture resources, and weaned feeder cattle earlier than usual. Furthermore, now that pregnancy testing has begun, producers were finding cow pregnancy rates were lower than normal in range cattle, thought to be a result of high fly infestations present in July and August. Conditions in Roosevelt County were reportedly also very dry.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	90	88	NA	NA
Barley				
Harvested.....	92	89	97	93
Canola				
Harvested.....	75	68	97	82
Corn				
Harvested for silage	34	23	41	38
Harvested for grain	8	1	13	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	88	85	94	81
Durum wheat				
Harvested.....	93	88	96	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	89	86	95	71
Lentils				
Harvested.....	95	93	NA	NA
Oats				
Harvested.....	78	77	NA	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	76	73	89	86
Safflower				
Turning color.....	78	73	NA	NA
Harvested.....	29	25	79	42
Spring wheat				
Harvested.....	94	90	100	92
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	17	3	33	16
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	31	29	20	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	27	26	23	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	6.7	6.5	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	38	37	51	29
Short.....	44	40	41	37
Adequate	18	23	8	30
Surplus	--	--	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	48	45	44	31
Short.....	31	32	48	39
Adequate	21	23	8	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	6	5
Poor	7	7	11	9
Fair	15	12	22	23
Good	66	69	59	53
Excellent	11	11	2	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	15	18	31	25
Poor	20	19	27	24
Fair	28	26	24	26
Good	32	32	18	22
Excellent	5	5	--	3
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	NA	NA
Poor	--	--	NA	NA
Fair	23	32	NA	NA
Good	77	68	NA	NA
Excellent	--	--	NA	NA

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

NA – not available

(--) – zero