

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 15, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: It was a week of mostly above normal temperatures, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The majority of the State saw temperatures running 2-4 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Isolated areas experienced temperatures as high as 8 degrees above average. Precipitation varied. Many areas of Montana received precipitation levels at or slightly below average. Some north-central, central, and southern portions of the State received higher amounts of moisture. Changes in drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released October 12, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free was unchanged at 56 percent. Abnormally dry conditions increased by one percentage point to 7 percent from the previous week. Moderate and severe drought conditions sat still at 14 and 20 percent, respectively. Extreme drought conditions fell by one percentage point from the previous week, to 3 percent. Most of the wheat was seeded in Chouteau County, in spite of recent light rains that delayed field work for some producers. Many farmers reported that 2023 was their best year for hard red winter wheat production, and few expressed concerns about the drought. Some northwestern sections of the county, however, needed moisture. Yields for yellow peas were also good, though not at the level expected based on field observation.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Canola				
Harvested.....	95	89	NA	NA
Corn				
Harvested for silage	83	81	82	86
Harvested for grain	42	34	39	29
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	90	88	NA	NA
Safflower				
Harvested.....	76	70	NA	NA
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	28	21	34	31
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	76	74	87	75
Emerged	57	33	61	48
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	50	45	39	46
Receiving supplemental feed	18	7	35	23
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	43	41	49	44
Receiving supplemental feed	10	4	25	21

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	6.6	6.3	6.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	33	30	37	23
Short	37	38	39	35
Adequate.....	30	31	24	36
Surplus.....	--	1	--	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	49	40	54	27
Short	31	35	39	35
Adequate.....	20	25	7	34
Surplus.....	--	--	--	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor	1	1	--	4
Poor	3	2	7	9
Fair.....	17	20	31	25
Good	70	68	62	54
Excellent	9	8	--	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	12	11	27	25
Poor	14	13	15	18
Fair.....	26	31	30	25
Good	41	38	28	26
Excellent	7	7	--	6

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

NA – not available

(--) – zero