

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 NOVEMBER 5, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Precipitation and temperatures varied in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Moisture levels were above average in the northwest, and in some parts of northern and central Montana, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Across the majority of Montana, however, precipitation levels were at or slightly below normal. Temperatures were mostly below normal, with parts of the northeast experiencing temperatures as many as 15 degrees below average. Average temperatures increased moving westward. Some counties in west-central Montana reached above normal temperatures. In the farther western sections of the State, however, temperatures once again ran below normal. Drought conditions improved, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 2, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased by 4 percentage points to 62 percent. Abnormal dryness was found in 8 percent of Montana, down from 9 percent the previous week. Moderate drought increased by 2 percentage points to 15 percent. Severe drought conditions were found in 14 percent of the State, down from 19 percent the previous week. Extreme drought conditions were unchanged at 1 percent. Producers were still dealing with the snow and its effects. Beaverhead and Deer Lodge Counties received 6-10 inches of snow depending on locale. Temperatures were below zero for several nights. Valley snow has since melted with the warmer temperatures. The snow from the previous week's storms had melted in Broadwater County, and farmers were dealing with muddy field conditions. A reporter in Granite County indicated that farmers faced snow and below freezing temperatures. Soils were regenerated with the abundant rains that fell in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Grounds had not yet frozen which resulted in good absorption. Most of the calves were being shipped, and were in good condition. Only a few suffered a bit from the cold, damp weather. Temperatures were expected to remain above freezing. Occasional rains were expected as well. With the new snow cover, producers in Prairie County were feeding their livestock. Feeding was expected to continue as long as weather conditions made it necessary.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Corn | | | | |
| Harvested for silage | 96 | 94 | NA | NA |
| Harvested for grain | 80 | 72 | 72 | 60 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 95 | 85 | NA | NA |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 78 | 61 | 81 | NA |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Emerged | 85 | 78 | 92 | 80 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 71 | 69 | 58 | 69 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 47 | 44 | 41 | 39 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 63 | 61 | 62 | 70 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 40 | 34 | 37 | 44 |

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 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 4.4 | 4.1 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 9 | 18 | 25 | 20 |
| Short | 39 | 32 | 45 | 32 |
| Adequate..... | 49 | 48 | 28 | 43 |
| Surplus..... | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 38 | 31 | 46 | 26 |
| Short | 29 | 29 | 35 | 32 |
| Adequate..... | 32 | 38 | 19 | 39 |
| Surplus..... | 1 | 2 | -- | 3 |

NA – not available

-- – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 |
| Poor | 2 | 1 | 14 | 12 |
| Fair..... | 31 | 22 | 52 | 33 |
| Good | 25 | 26 | 20 | 37 |
| Excellent | 41 | 50 | 4 | 11 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 12 | 15 | 27 | 28 |
| Poor | 14 | 15 | 23 | 19 |
| Fair..... | 27 | 24 | 25 | 24 |
| Good | 42 | 43 | 24 | 23 |
| Excellent | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 |

NA – not available

-- – zero