

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
 November 18, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures were once again mostly above average, and precipitation was mixed, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were in a range of about 4-8 degrees above average for most of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). North-central and northeastern portions of the State experienced even higher average temperatures. Precipitation varied. Some areas in north-central Montana, the southwest, and the southeast received about 0.1 inch of moisture or less, where precipitation was measurable. Parts of the northwest, northeast, and south-central Montana received about 0.3-0.6 inch of moisture. Some areas received higher amounts, also according to the HPRCC. There was no change in drought conditions according to the US Drought Monitor report released November 14. The amount of land rated abnormally dry was unchanged at 42 percent. Moderate and severe conditions also held steady at 21 and 24 percent, respectively. Extreme conditions sat still at 13 percent. As in previous weeks, exceptional drought conditions were rated 1 percent. Calves and lambs were weaned and shipped in Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties. Some rain was received, with totals measuring about 0.25-0.30 inch. The cold weather arrived in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties, but temperatures were warmer than normal. There were no reports of winter wheat planting. The majority of cattle were removed from summer pastures and were receiving hay. An agent for Valley County reported again that conditions were very dry.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	84	80	89	77
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	95	86	94	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged	91	86	94	88
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	74	71	76	76
Receiving supplemental feed.....	53	50	55	54
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	74	67	71	77
Receiving supplemental feed.....	55	51	53	52

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.....	6.5	6.5	5.8	3.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	49	46	20	22
Short.....	34	35	32	34
Adequate	17	19	46	40
Surplus	--	--	2	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	47	46	34	34
Short.....	39	37	27	31
Adequate	14	17	37	32
Surplus	--	--	2	3

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	49	40	19	31
Poor	19	22	20	18
Fair.....	30	35	24	21
Good	2	3	35	26
Excellent	--	--	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	6	5	1	6
Poor.....	9	9	4	10
Fair.....	50	59	37	34
Good	35	27	21	32
Excellent.....	--	--	37	18

NA – not available

(--) – zero