

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 1, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The pattern of varied temperatures and mixed precipitation continued, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures were running about average in many parts of the State, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Average temperatures ran below normal, however, in some portions of eastern and western Montana. Some parts of Central Montana saw average temperatures run as high as 4-6 degrees above normal. The majority of Montana received below average amounts of precipitation. Parts of northwestern and north-central Montana, however, received as much as 0.6 inch of above average moisture. Portions of Custer and Golden Valley Counties, and surrounding areas, also received above average moisture. The U.S. Drought Monitor Report released August 29 indicated that abnormal dryness fell to 34 percent, down from 38 percent the previous week. Moderate drought conditions increased by 3 percentage points to 43 percent. Severe conditions were unchanged at 14 percent. Extreme drought conditions increased by 1 percentage point to 8 percent. Exceptional drought conditions were again unchanged at 1 percent. The hot and dry conditions persisted in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Numerous forest fires were out of control in Ravalli County, and air quality was poor. Air quality was also reduced in Missoula County resulting from fires in neighboring states. The hot and dry weather was good for corn condition in Prairie County. The deterioration of pastures and ranges was ongoing, however, with the absence of rain. Conditions in the river valley improved following spotty rains, but conditions remained poor outside of the valley. Conditions were especially poor in southeastern Prairie County. Conditions moved into the severe drought category in Roosevelt County. The quality of harvested crops varied greatly. An agent in Wibaux County reported that producers were providing supplemental hay to livestock due to the shortage of grass. Some producers were shipping calves due to the grass shortage. Wibaux County conditions remained hot, dry, and windy.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 74 | 49 | 78 | 82 |
| Barley | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 68 | 39 | 82 | 77 |
| Canola | | | | |
| Coloring..... | 95 | 91 | 96 | NA |
| Harvested..... | 55 | 29 | 60 | 53 |
| Corn for silage | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 4 | 1 | 11 | 13 |
| Dry edible beans | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 81 | 52 | 78 | 61 |
| Dry peas | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 96 | 92 | 94 | NA |
| Durum wheat | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 91 | 70 | 78 | 61 |
| Flaxseed | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 48 | 36 | 71 | 51 |
| Lentils | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 78 | 75 | 90 | NA |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 53 | 27 | 89 | 61 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Coloring..... | 95 | 88 | NA | NA |
| Harvested..... | 73 | 59 | 71 | 72 |
| Other hay | | | | |
| 2 nd cutting harvested | 59 | 38 | 63 | 67 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Coloring..... | 54 | 52 | 64 | NA |
| Harvested..... | 19 | 11 | 21 | 21 |
| Spring wheat | | | | |
| Coloring..... | 97 | 93 | NA | NA |
| Harvested..... | 77 | 56 | 81 | 75 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 91 | 82 | 89 | 93 |
| Planted..... | 1 | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 21 | 14 | 26 | NA |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Moved from pasture | 4 | 1 | 24 | 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 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.6 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 22 | 24 | 35 | 30 |
| Short | 55 | 58 | 49 | 44 |
| Adequate..... | 23 | 18 | 16 | 25 |
| Surplus..... | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 25 | 27 | 45 | 31 |
| Short | 53 | 55 | 38 | 41 |
| Adequate..... | 22 | 18 | 17 | 27 |
| Surplus..... | -- | -- | -- | 1 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Barley | | | | |
| Very poor | 4 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Poor | 18 | 18 | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 30 | 21 | NA | NA |
| Good..... | 47 | 56 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Canola | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | NA | NA |
| Poor | 11 | 10 | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 35 | 29 | NA | NA |
| Good..... | 51 | 60 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 3 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Poor | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Fair..... | 35 | 33 | 19 | 23 |
| Good..... | 56 | 55 | 68 | 58 |
| Excellent | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Mustard seed | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | NA | NA |
| Poor | 5 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 8 | 8 | NA | NA |
| Good..... | 86 | 87 | NA | NA |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 16 | 16 | 11 | 20 |
| Poor | 35 | 29 | 20 | 23 |
| Fair..... | 42 | 47 | 28 | 28 |
| Good..... | 7 | 8 | 36 | 25 |
| Excellent | -- | -- | 5 | 4 |
| Safflower | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | -- | 6 |
| Poor | 5 | 6 | -- | 14 |
| Fair..... | 57 | 59 | 41 | 37 |
| Good..... | 36 | 33 | 59 | 39 |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | -- | 4 |

¹Current conditions for Flaxseed and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/
 NA – not available
 (--) – zero