

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 29, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Precipitation levels were below normal for all of Montana, and temperatures ran above normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation was in a range of about 0.15 - 0.45 inch below normal, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). In a few isolated areas, precipitation was as much as 0.6 inch below normal. Temperatures were in a range of about 4 to 16 degrees above normal. The largest departures from normal temperatures were seen mostly in eastern sections of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released September 26, the amount of land rated drought free was found in 7 percent of Montana, compared to none the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 49 percent of the State, up 8 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought conditions stood at 24 percent, down 12 percentage points from last week. Severe conditions were rated just above 11 percent, down from 14 percent last week. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions were again unchanged at 8 and 1 percent, respectively. Days suitable for field work rebounded from 4.9 the previous week to 6.2. The third cutting of hay began in Broadwater County. Potato harvest was also underway. Conditions were very dry in Dawson County, and some producers were providing their cattle hay and lick tubs. The weather turned cooler in Roosevelt County. Pastures remained dry, however, and new growth was minimal which hampered fall grazing. Producers voiced concerns about getting their cattle sold. Hot and dry conditions persisted in Wibaux County. Weekend temperatures were in the 90s in the northwest and southwest, where lands were driest. Winter wheat seeding was delayed due to the lack of soil moisture. Hay supplies were noted to be coming into the county from elsewhere for livestock producers to feed their herds.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	93	90	NA	NA
Canola				
Harvested.....	86	81	83	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain	10	2	21	14
Harvested for silage	36	27	55	55
Flaxseed				
Harvested.....	76	61	NA	NA
Lentils				
Harvested.....	96	94	NA	NA
Oats				
Harvested.....	84	81	86	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	91	85	85	NA
Safflower				
Coloring.....	87	80	88	NA
Harvested.....	56	51	49	58
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	2	--	6	3
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	61	39	48	47
Emerged	24	4	4	11
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	29	27	40	33
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	18	14	38	30

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.....	6.2	4.9	5.9	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	20	19	30	32
Short	39	46	47	35
Adequate	41	35	22	29
Surplus	--	--	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	25	27	47	35
Short.....	40	40	37	36
Adequate	35	33	16	26
Surplus	--	--	--	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION ¹

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Very poor	1	--	1	3
Poor	10	8	5	10
Fair.....	37	40	22	23
Good.....	49	50	64	57
Excellent	3	2	8	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor	27	36	8	26
Poor	27	26	12	16
Fair.....	36	31	36	28
Good.....	9	6	39	23
Excellent	1	1	5	7

¹Current conditions for Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available

(-) – zero