

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 October 17, 2022

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 16, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of above average temperatures and minimal rainfall, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This week, counties along the western border received no measurable precipitation. Counties along the eastern border were dry as well, with rainfall totals less than a tenth of an inch. The central portion of the State received between 0.1 and 0.25 inches of rainfall, with localized areas receiving upwards of 0.3 inches. Average daily temperatures this week ranged from 2 to 5 degrees above average for most of the State. Counties along the western border and some counties in the central portion of the State were much warmer, with average daily temperatures 5 to 10 degrees above average. Drought conditions in the State remained similar to last week. According to the United States Drought Monitor for October 13, 2022, 89.6 percent of the State is experiencing drought conditions, unchanged from last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 16.8 percent, compared to 16.7 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 31.6 percent of the State, compared to 31.7 percent of the State last week. Severe drought conditions decreased slightly from 29.0 percent last week to 27.9 percent of the State this week. Extreme drought conditions increased to cover 13.3 percent of the State, compared to 12.2 percent last week. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties experienced mild weather this week. Producers were beginning to use irrigated fall pastures and hay harvest is finishing up. Wildfires are continuing to burn in southern Ravalli County, however, there is snow forecasted for the upcoming weekend. Wibaux County remains very dry and needs moisture going into the winter. Producers in Broadwater County are harvesting a third cutting of hay. Potato harvest in the county is still underway and there are reports that yields are higher than average. Corn harvesting is slightly behind last year. Corn harvested for grain is 40 percent complete this week, compared to 45 percent complete this time last year and corn harvested for silage is 83 percent complete this week, compared to 94 percent complete this time last year. Winter wheat planting continues ahead of last year, as does emergence of the crop. Planting is 89 percent complete, compared to 76 percent complete this time last year and emergence is at 63 percent, compared to 48 percent emerged this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	40	33	45	29
Harvested for silage	83	79	94	89
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	37	19	33	35
Winter wheat				
Planted	89	77	76	76
Emerged	63	50	48	48
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	40	36	61	52
Receiving supplemental feed	35	27	23	21
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	50	42	60	50
Receiving supplemental feed	25	27	19	20

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.....	6.9	6.1	6.1	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	37	46	54	20
Short.....	39	38	40	33
Adequate.....	24	16	6	40
Surplus	--	--	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	54	62	60	22
Short.....	39	31	37	35
Adequate.....	7	7	3	39
Surplus	--	--	--	4

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	1	17	5
Poor.....	7	7	24	11
Fair.....	31	29	32	26
Good.....	62	62	27	48
Excellent.....	--	1	--	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	27	30	65	27
Poor.....	15	16	30	20
Fair.....	30	35	5	24
Good.....	28	19	--	23
Excellent.....	--	--	--	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	1	10	4
Poor.....	--	1	14	8
Fair.....	36	27	42	28
Good.....	64	70	32	47
Excellent.....	--	1	2	13
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	20	NA	NA	NA
Poor.....	17	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	30	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	27	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	6	NA	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero