

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 OCTOBER 30, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana received scattered precipitation this week, with total accumulations for a large portion of the State at or below normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Heading into November, precipitation totals for the year varied drastically depending on location. Average daily temperatures dipped below average for the southern half of the State this week, with temperatures ranging from average to 4 degrees below average. The northern half of the State was slightly warmer, with average daily temperatures ranging from average to 2 degrees above average. While the precipitation received this week will bring short term relief, conditions remain dry throughout the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor published on October 27, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry remained unchanged at 15.3 percent of the State. Moderate drought conditions also remained unchanged at 32.3 percent of the State. Severe drought conditions increased slightly from 25.4 percent last week to 26.4 percent of the State this week, while extreme drought conditions decreased slightly from 16.6 percent last week to 15.6 percent of the State this week. Overall, 89.6 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, unchanged from last week. Judith Basin County received moisture over the weekend that is expected to help producers with fall planting and help winter wheat establishment. Despite the moisture received, drought conditions persist in the county and the water table remains low. Significant fall and winter moisture will be needed to salvage pasture and rangeland next year. Potato harvest in Broadwater County is complete and comments indicate producers are almost done harvesting a third cutting of hay. Fire risk in Ravalli County has been reduced due to moisture received this week. As temperatures drop and rain begins to turn to snow, producers in the county are expected to begin relying on supplemental feed for livestock. Winter wheat planting is nearing completion slightly ahead of last year, with planting reported at 98 percent complete, compared to 94 percent complete this time last year. Movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture is slow compared to last year, with an estimated 51 percent of cattle and calves and 59 percent of sheep and lambs moved this year, compared to 71 percent moved this time last year for both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. An estimated 40 percent of cattle and 27 percent of sheep are receiving supplemental feed, compared to last year percentages of 33 percent and 34 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	67	47	68	49
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	70	51	68	69
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	98	93	94	93
Emerged.....	84	77	73	72
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	51	44	71	67
Receiving supplemental feed.....	40	42	33	33
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	59	54	71	69
Receiving supplemental feed.....	27	26	34	38

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.....	5.5	5.3	6.6	4.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	32	30	60	18
Short.....	39	41	36	26
Adequate.....	26	26	4	48
Surplus.....	3	3	--	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	44	45	62	21
Short.....	40	42	32	32
Adequate.....	16	12	6	43
Surplus.....	--	1	--	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	1	NA	NA
Poor.....	5	5	NA	NA
Fair.....	27	34	NA	NA
Good.....	64	59	NA	NA
Excellent.....	3	1	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	20	21	65	28
Poor.....	20	20	30	20
Fair.....	32	29	5	23
Good.....	27	30	--	24
Excellent.....	1	--	--	5
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	10	13	21	5
Poor.....	15	8	23	10
Fair.....	43	34	49	33
Good.....	21	30	7	42
Excellent.....	11	15	--	10

NA – not available
 (--) – zero