

# 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 14, 2022

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 13, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** A cold front impacted Montana this week, bringing below average temperatures and scattered snow showers, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals ranged from a quarter inch to an inch and a half for most the State and the majority of the State currently has 4 to 8 inches of accumulated snow. Valley County reported receiving 8 inches of snow and Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties reported 8 to 10 inches of snow. Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, and Judith Basin Counties reported snow showers and cold temperatures. Temperatures dipped significantly this week, with temperatures falling below 0 degrees in some areas. Average daily low temperatures ranged from 10 degrees above freezing in the southern half of the state to 5 degrees below freezing in the northern half of the State. Average daily high temperatures ranged from the mid-teens to mid-twenties this week. According to the United States Drought Monitor published on November 10, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 22.8 percent, compared to 15.3 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 24.8 percent of the State, a decrease from 32.3 percent last week. Severe drought conditions and extreme drought conditions remained unchanged this week at 26.4 percent and 15.6 percent, respectively. Overall, 89.6 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) totals for all of the State's basins are now above average, ranging from 116 percent of normal in the Upper Yellowstone Basin to 194 percent of normal in the Bitterroot Basin. Reports from Ravalli County indicate a significant amount of hay for sale in the county. Producers in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties are beginning to cut back cattle numbers. Judith Basin County also reported that producers are thinning herds. The colder temperatures this week forced producers to supplement grazing with hay, lowering hay that is available for the winter. Powder River County reported weaning is underway. Sugarbeet harvest is nearing completion ahead of last year, with harvest reported at 97 percent complete this week, compared to 83 percent complete this time last year. Movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture is behind last year. This week an estimated 64 percent of cattle and calves and 70 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, compared to 79 percent moved this time last year for cattle and calves and 81 percent moved for sheep and lambs.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	91	73	83	67
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	97	83	83	NA
Winter wheat				
Emergded.....	95	93	81	84
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	64	59	79	80
Receiving supplemental feed.....	59	41	43	45
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	70	63	81	81
Receiving supplemental feed.....	56	37	47	50

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.....	1.5	4.4	6.7	3.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	25	52	17
Short.....	49	45	44	25
Adequate.....	32	28	4	53
Surplus.....	2	2	--	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	47	46	67	23
Short.....	33	35	27	31
Adequate.....	18	19	6	43
Surplus.....	2	--	--	3

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

**CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor .....	21	27	73	30
Poor .....	19	23	23	19
Fair .....	33	25	3	23
Good .....	27	24	1	21
Excellent .....	--	1	--	7
<b>Winter Wheat</b>				
Very poor .....	1	10	21	6
Poor .....	13	14	21	9
Fair .....	45	52	51	32
Good .....	29	20	5	41
Excellent .....	12	4	2	12

NA – not available

(--) – zero