

# 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 AUGUST 2, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Hot and dry conditions prevailed across the state of Montana again this week with an early week storm providing a little respite for parts of the state. The dry heat coupled with high winds has opened fire season in Montana with some grass fires starting from machinery as producers harvest in addition to lightning caused fires. High wind and heat damage to crops was noted in several areas of the State and the durum wheat growing northeast reported winds above 70 mile per hour. Conversely, the rain storm early in the week halted field work for a couple of days as producers waited for their fields to dry out enough to get their machinery back out into them. Crops continued to turn rapidly in the hot, dry weather with durum wheat 87 percent turned compared to the 5-year average of 27 percent. Producers have begun harvesting small grains weeks ahead of normal with 25 percent of barley, 4 percent of durum wheat, 3 percent of oats and 6 percent of spring wheat harvested at this time. Pasture and range conditions continue to decline from last week due to continued dry weather with 26 percent rated good to excellent compared with 48 percent last year. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 5 percent of cattle and 5 percent of sheep moved so far and are voicing concerns about the availability and price of hay that will be needed in the months to come.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting .....	27	5	18	18
Barley				
Turning .....	97	93	78	67
Harvested .....	25	3	1	4
Camelina				
Turning .....	80	49	63	75
Canola				
Turning .....	78	71	59	54
Harvested .....	6	--	--	--
Dry beans				
Harvested .....	3	2	1	1
Dry peas				
Harvested .....	69	50	18	22
Durum wheat				
Turning .....	87	48	20	27
Harvested .....	4	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Blooming .....	97	94	91	97
Turning .....	84	51	29	41
Lentils				
Harvested .....	32	22	15	14
Mustard seed				
Turning .....	75	54	45	58
Harvested .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Turning .....	85	70	53	53
Harvested .....	3	NA	NA	NA
Other hay				
Second cutting .....	18	2	5	6
Safflower				
Blooming .....	49	38	91	86
Spring wheat				
Turning .....	94	83	68	45
Harvested .....	6	--	--	2
Winter wheat				
Harvested .....	70	42	35	20
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	5	2	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	5	1	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.4	6.4	6.7	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	14	11	13
Short.....	42	43	40	37
Adequate.....	37	36	43	46
Surplus.....	8	7	6	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	13	8	11
Short.....	38	39	38	32
Adequate.....	39	39	49	54
Surplus.....	9	9	5	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	3	3	--	3
Poor.....	10	10	4	7
Fair.....	34	34	41	31
Good.....	42	41	43	45
Excellent.....	11	12	12	14
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	8	8	4	4
Poor.....	46	12	6	7
Fair.....	16	50	28	28
Good.....	29	29	61	54
Excellent.....	1	1	1	7
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	3
Poor.....	3	3	2	6
Fair.....	31	31	39	29
Good.....	54	54	51	53
Excellent.....	11	11	7	9
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	8	8	4	8
Poor.....	21	21	14	12
Fair.....	45	43	34	27
Good.....	22	24	37	38
Excellent.....	4	4	11	15
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	1	3
Poor.....	9	8	4	7
Fair.....	34	34	39	30
Good.....	44	45	45	48
Excellent.....	9	9	11	12
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	2
Poor.....	10	9	7	8
Fair.....	32	33	27	24
Good.....	35	35	50	50
Excellent.....	21	21	15	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Montana/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2015/MT\\_Weather\\_08022015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_08022015.pdf)