

# 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 9, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Thunderstorms at the beginning of the week brought varied amounts of precipitation and hail to many parts of Montana before returning to hot, dry days for the remainder of the week. Damage from hail and wind also varied with reports of more severe damage in the south central and northeastern parts of the State. Harvest is well underway for many crops but reporters are noting that there is wide range of yields at the county level across the State. Harvest of small grains continues weeks ahead of normal with 48 percent of barley, 12 percent of durum wheat, 37 percent of oats, 29 percent of spring wheat and 84 percent of winter wheat harvested at this time. Corn being harvested for silage has begun ahead of schedule as well with 1 percent harvested so far. Pasture and range conditions declined from last week due to continued dry weather with 25 percent rated good to excellent compared with 45 percent last year. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 7 percent of cattle and 9 percent of sheep moved. As haying season is rapidly coming to a close and with poor results across much of the State, livestock producers are actively searching for hay to supplement poor grazing conditions.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting .....	51	27	36	37
Barley				
Harvested .....	48	25	18	14
Camelina				
Turning .....	95	80	73	90
Harvested .....	12	--	7	9
Canola				
Turning .....	88	78	81	77
Harvested .....	38	6	19	7
Corn				
Harvested for silage .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry beans				
Harvested .....	16	3	15	6
Dry peas				
Harvested .....	77	69	44	42
Durum wheat				
Turning .....	98	87	45	51
Harvested .....	12	4	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Turning .....	92	84	51	60
Harvested .....	24	--	NA	NA
Lentils				
Harvested .....	61	32	24	28
Mustard seed				
Turning .....	80	75	69	74
Harvested .....	29	1	3	5
Oats				
Turning .....	93	85	81	76
Harvested .....	37	3	9	14
Other hay				
Second cutting .....	36	18	19	20
Safflower				
Blooming .....	70	49	94	90
Turning .....	2	NA	30	49
Spring wheat				
Turning .....	99	94	88	67
Harvested .....	29	6	5	7
Winter wheat				
Harvested .....	84	70	61	45
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range .....	7	5	1	2
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range .....	9	5	2	1

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.....	6.5	5.4	6.5	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	13	13	14
Short.....	38	42	40	38
Adequate.....	41	37	42	45
Surplus.....	8	8	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	14	8	12
Short.....	38	38	41	34
Adequate.....	40	39	47	52
Surplus.....	9	9	4	2

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.....	4	3	--	3
Poor.....	10	10	4	7
Fair.....	34	34	41	32
Good.....	41	42	43	44
Excellent.....	11	11	12	14
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	6	8	4	4
Poor.....	37	46	6	6
Fair.....	24	16	29	27
Good.....	32	29	60	56
Excellent.....	1	1	1	7
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	3
Poor.....	4	3	2	7
Fair.....	28	31	41	30
Good.....	56	54	50	52
Excellent.....	11	11	6	8
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	9	8	4	9
Poor.....	22	21	16	13
Fair.....	44	45	35	28
Good.....	22	22	36	38
Excellent.....	3	4	9	12
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	1	3
Poor.....	8	9	4	7
Fair.....	34	34	38	31
Good.....	45	44	46	49
Excellent.....	9	9	11	10

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\\_08092015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_08092015.pdf)