

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 17, 2015

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana was hot and dry with thunderstorms for much of the week leading to several lightning caused fires that were further encouraged by gusting wind. In addition to lightning, the storms produced heavy precipitation in some areas while others received little to none which caused soil moisture levels to decline slightly from the previous week with 47 percent of topsoil and 48 percent of subsoil rated adequate to surplus. Harvest of small grains continues weeks ahead of normal with 66 percent of barley, 19 percent of durum wheat, 57 percent of oats, 43 percent of spring wheat and 92 percent of winter wheat harvested this week. Pasture and range conditions continued a gradual decline from last week due to hot, dry weather with 24 percent rated good to excellent compared with 44 percent last year. Producers continue to move livestock off exhausted summer ranges ahead of normal with 10 percent of cattle and 10 percent of sheep moved. Supplemental feeding of livestock is underway with 5 percent of cattle and 3 percent of sheep being fed at this time.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Second cutting	66	51	55	52
Barley				
Harvested	62	48	36	30
Camelina				
Harvested	30	12	24	17
Canola				
Turning	97	88	91	86
Harvested	46	38	31	14
Corn				
Harvested for silage	2	1	NA	NA
Dry beans				
Harvested	47	16	20	13
Dry peas				
Harvested	87	77	66	59
Durum wheat				
Harvested	19	12	2	11
Flaxseed				
Turning	97	92	64	78
Harvested	40	24	--	4
Lentils				
Harvested	78	61	30	45
Mustard seed				
Turning	93	80	81	85
Harvested	53	29	21	15
Oats				
Turning	95	93	92	89
Harvested	57	37	31	29
Other hay				
Second cutting	50	36	42	40
Safflower				
Blooming	91	70	95	94
Turning	24	2	35	55
Spring wheat				
Harvested	43	29	21	19
Winter wheat				
Harvested	92	84	83	70
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	10	7	1	3
Receiving supplemental feed	5	NA	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	10	9	2	3
Receiving supplemental feed	3	NA	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.....	6.6	6.5	5.7	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	13	13	15
Short.....	38	38	39	38
Adequate.....	40	41	43	44
Surplus.....	7	8	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	13	9	13
Short.....	38	38	41	33
Adequate.....	39	40	46	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	4	--	3
Poor.....	10	10	4	7
Fair.....	34	34	41	32
Good.....	41	41	43	44
Excellent.....	11	11	12	14
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	6	6	4	4
Poor.....	34	37	6	5
Fair.....	27	24	28	28
Good.....	32	32	61	54
Excellent.....	1	1	1	9
Oats				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	3
Poor.....	4	4	3	7
Fair.....	28	28	36	31
Good.....	56	56	52	50
Excellent.....	11	11	8	9
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	9	9	4	9
Poor.....	22	22	16	13
Fair.....	45	44	36	29
Good.....	21	22	36	37
Excellent.....	3	3	8	12
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	1	3
Poor.....	8	8	4	7
Fair.....	33	34	38	30
Good.....	46	45	48	49
Excellent.....	9	9	9	11

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_08162015.pdf