

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 25, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cold temperatures and snowy conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Judith Basin, Phillips and Valley counties stated several inches of much needed moisture was received last week, with more in the forecast. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 35 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 23 percent in the previous week, and 97 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 32 percent adequate to surplus compared to 93 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed slightly, with an estimated 38 percent of the crop harvested, falling behind the 5-year average at 44 percent, but ahead of the previous year at 18 percent. Safflower harvest is estimated at 85 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 57 percent and 69 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed well last week, with an estimated 61 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 33 percent and the 5-year average of 59 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop continues to progress behind the average, with an estimated 88 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 85 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 91 percent. Emergence of the 2021 winter wheat crop advanced last week, with an estimated 65 percent of the crop emerged, ahead of the previous year at 52 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 71 percent. An estimated 61 percent of cattle and calves and 63 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, both progressing behind the average. Record-breaking cold temperatures and snowy conditions this past week reduced grazing, causing producers to provide supplemental feed ahead of normal. An estimated 48 percent of cattle and 47 percent of sheep are receiving supplemental feed, ahead of the 5-year averages of 20 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	38	32	18	44
Safflower				
Harvested	85	80	57	69
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	61	36	33	59
Winter wheat				
Planted	88	77	85	91
Emerged.....	65	57	52	71
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	61	49	52	64
Receiving supplemental feed	48	27	3	20
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	63	51	52	70
Receiving supplemental feed	47	29	2	18

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	5.6	5.0	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	19	--	9
Short.....	49	58	3	21
Adequate.....	35	23	72	60
Surplus.....	--	--	25	10
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	9	--	13
Short.....	54	57	7	28
Adequate.....	32	34	76	52
Surplus.....	--	--	17	7

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	NA
Poor.....	1	1	7	NA
Fair.....	25	16	24	NA
Good.....	59	70	61	NA
Excellent.....	15	13	7	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	20	22	3	15
Poor.....	18	24	3	19
Fair.....	37	39	23	29
Good.....	24	14	55	31
Excellent.....	1	1	16	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	NA
Poor.....	--	4	11	NA
Fair.....	24	28	17	NA
Good.....	55	53	51	NA
Excellent.....	21	15	13	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	NA	1	1
Poor.....	1	NA	4	4
Fair.....	18	NA	34	32
Good.....	79	NA	41	48
Excellent.....	1	NA	20	15

NA – not available

(--)- zero