

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
 August 30, 2021

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and rain showers were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of the state is under drought conditions, with 99 percent in severe to exceptional drought, unchanged from last week. Reporters noted the cooler temperatures and moisture received throughout the state have provided some short-term drought relief and improved crop conditions. However, some reporters stated the moisture received during harvest of small grain crops has created some issues for malt quality barley and spring wheat. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 11 percent adequate to surplus, equal to the previous week but below the previous year at 31 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 9 percent adequate to surplus compared to 33 percent the previous year. Barley harvest made significant progress last week, with an estimated 79 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 67 percent and 74 percent, respectively. Corn harvested for silage moves into the second week, with an estimated 10 percent of the crop harvested, slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 8 percent harvested. Harvest of the dry edible pea crop is virtually complete, with an estimated 98 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 89 percent. Lentil harvest progressed significantly last week and is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of lentils harvested, ahead of the previous year of 87 percent. Durum wheat harvest continues to advance quickly, with an estimated 69 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year at 44 percent and the 5-year average of 54 percent. Oilseed harvest for most crops is more than halfway complete, with an estimated 58 percent of canola, 57 percent of flaxseed, and 55 percent of mustard seed harvested, all ahead of the 5-year averages. Safflower harvest continues slightly ahead of normal, with an estimated 20 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 14 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay continues, with an estimated 87 percent of alfalfa and 69 percent of other hay harvested, both progressing well ahead of the previous year. Small grain harvest continues, with an estimated 71 percent of oats and 85 percent of spring wheat harvested, both ahead of the previous year at 73 percent and 71 percent, respectively. Reporters noted the moisture the last couple weeks has improved pasture conditions, and continued moisture could improve the fall and winter grazing outlook. An estimated 20 percent of cattle and calves and 15 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from summer pasture, both ahead of the previous year at 6 percent.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	87	77	73	NA
Barley				
Harvested	79	64	67	74
Canola				
Harvested	58	45	49	49
Corn				
Harvested for silage	10	1	9	8
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	59	42	52	55
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	98	90	90	89
Durum wheat				
Harvested	69	51	44	54
Flaxseed				
Harvested	57	43	36	38
Lentils				
Harvested	95	81	87	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	55	40	51	53
Oats				
Harvested	71	58	73	70
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	69	53	60	72
Safflower				
Turning color	85	70	74	66
Harvested	20	10	18	14
Spring wheat				
Harvested	85	69	71	68
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	20	15	6	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	15	9	6	NA

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.....	6.0	4.4	6.7	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	44	57	16	26
Short.....	45	32	53	34
Adequate.....	11	11	30	37
Surplus.....	--	--	1	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	62	68	15	21
Short.....	29	23	52	39
Adequate.....	9	9	32	38
Surplus.....	--	--	1	2

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Canola				
Very poor.....	13	27	--	NA
Poor.....	17	14	1	NA
Fair.....	40	25	21	NA
Good.....	30	26	48	NA
Excellent.....	--	8	30	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	16	29	--	1
Poor.....	18	21	--	6
Fair.....	37	32	20	28
Good.....	29	18	63	53
Excellent.....	--	--	17	12
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Very poor.....	25	22	--	NA
Poor.....	36	34	--	NA
Fair.....	39	44	43	NA
Good.....	--	--	54	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	3	NA
Flaxseed				
Very poor.....	15	31	--	NA
Poor.....	40	31	--	NA
Fair.....	40	30	27	NA
Good.....	5	8	48	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	25	NA
Mustard seed				
Very poor.....	11	11	--	NA
Poor.....	28	28	--	NA
Fair.....	55	55	27	NA
Good.....	4	4	56	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	17	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	49	63	16	18
Poor.....	41	34	26	18
Fair.....	10	3	35	30
Good.....	--	--	16	26
Excellent.....	--	--	7	8
Safflower				
Very poor.....	36	31	--	5
Poor.....	38	47	3	7
Fair.....	26	22	44	31
Good.....	--	--	53	51
Excellent.....	--	--	--	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	9	11	--	2
Poor.....	16	13	--	6
Fair.....	40	32	20	24
Good.....	35	44	65	53
Excellent.....	--	--	15	15

NA – not available

(--)- zero