

# 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  
 September 13, 2021

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm temperatures and dry conditions 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. Twenty percent of the state is currently under exceptional drought conditions, also unchanged from last week. Reporters noted the dry, warm weather last week produced favorable conditions for harvest and winter wheat planting. Reporters in Roosevelt and Valley counties stated honey harvest has begun, but collection has been lower than average due to the reduced amount of forage available for bees. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 4 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 7 percent in the previous week and 36 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 6 percent adequate to surplus compared to 41 percent the previous year. Barley harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 96 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 93 percent and 90 percent, respectively. Corn for grain harvest began last week, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop harvested. Corn harvested for silage slowed slightly, with an estimated 28 percent of the crop harvested, behind the previous year at 32 percent and the 5-year average of 34 percent. Durum wheat harvest made considerable progress last week and is almost complete, with an estimated 96 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year at 79 percent and the 5-year average of 76 percent. With favorable weather conditions, canola, flaxseed and mustard seed harvest all made substantial progress last week, with an estimated 80 percent of canola, 86 percent of flaxseed, and 81 percent of mustard seed harvested. Safflower harvest continues ahead of normal, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average of 29 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is nearing the end with lower than average yields reported. Hay harvest slowed last week, with an estimated 95 percent of alfalfa and 85 percent of other hay harvested. Oat harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 89 percent. Planting of the 2022 winter wheat crop progressed well last week, with an estimated 14 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 12 percent and the 5-year average of 7 percent planted. Reporters stated producers have started supplemental feeding for livestock due to the lack of available grass. Producers are also weaning calves early and selling livestock because pasture conditions are poor and supplemental feed costs are high. Current conditions continue to speed up movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture, with an estimated 35 percent of cattle and calves and 28 percent of sheep and lambs moved from summer pasture, both ahead of the previous year at 11 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	95	92	89	NA
Barley				
Harvested .....	96	89	93	90
Canola				
Harvested .....	80	69	73	74
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Harvested for silage .....	28	21	32	34
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested .....	85	76	72	76
Durum wheat				
Harvested .....	96	80	79	76
Flaxseed				
Harvested .....	86	70	68	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested .....	81	67	75	76
Oats				
Harvested .....	95	85	89	NA
Other hay				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested .....	85	80	75	NA
Safflower				
Harvested .....	40	30	29	30
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	14	3	12	7
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture .....	35	28	11	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture .....	28	23	12	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.....	6.5	7.0	6.1	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	52	54	14	17
Short.....	44	39	50	30
Adequate.....	4	7	35	48
Surplus.....	--	--	1	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	61	66	14	20
Short.....	33	30	45	34
Adequate.....	6	4	40	43
Surplus.....	--	--	1	3

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.....	16	15	--	1
Poor.....	27	20	1	7
Fair.....	30	35	22	26
Good.....	26	29	60	54
Excellent.....	1	1	17	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	54	52	22	20
Poor.....	34	35	26	19
Fair.....	12	13	31	28
Good.....	--	--	20	27
Excellent.....	--	--	1	6
Safflower				
Very poor.....	22	32	--	6
Poor.....	48	45	4	6
Fair.....	30	23	44	29
Good.....	--	--	52	50
Excellent.....	--	--	--	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	10	11	--	3
Poor.....	14	16	--	6
Fair.....	36	40	24	24
Good.....	38	33	60	53
Excellent.....	2	--	16	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero