

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 NOVEMBER 7, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Average temperatures were well above normal across much of Montana during the week, while accumulated moisture totals continued to fall well below average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The exceptions were a few locations of extreme western Montana where converted precipitation totals were as high as 2.0 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State was categorized as suffering from severe drought (D2) conditions or worse, with some expansion of exceptional drought (D4) noted despite some significant moisture reported in western counties. Severe drought was present across 30.3 percent of Montana, extreme drought (D3) covered 47.1 percent, and exceptional drought was noted across 22.6 percent. Reports from numerous counties indicated dire conditions that will only worsen without ample amounts of moisture. In Phillips County, dry, windy weather has left the recently seeded 2022 winter wheat crop in jeopardy of drastically reduced yields, or worse, not surviving. Similarly, comments from Judith Basin County noted that only portions of many wheat fields had emerged, and the areas that did were on the verge of failing. Growers were busy harvesting corn and sugarbeets, with progress for both crops reaching 80 percent complete by week's end. Statewide, over three-quarters of the cattle and sheep herds had been moved off of summer grazing grounds, slightly ahead of progress from last year. Supplemental feeding for both species was on the rise with poor winter grazing prospects across most areas. Reports from Phillips County noted that ranchers had shipped more than 20,000 head of breeding cows to sale barns or other States so far this year, and without immediate precipitation, that number was expected to rise significantly. Similar comments were received from reporters in Valley County, where ranchers continued to cull cattle rather than try to find winter grazing or purchase high-priced hay. Overall, 96 percent of the pasture and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 47 percent last year and a 5-year average of 37 percent.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	80	70	58	59
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	80	70	80	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	80	75	83	81
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	77	71	75	74
Receiving supplemental feed	41	33	48	35
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	78	72	72	78
Receiving supplemental feed	47	34	56	42

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.....	6.9	6.6	4.2	3.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	59	60	15	8
Short.....	36	36	46	25
Adequate.....	4	4	39	60
Surplus.....	1	--	--	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	65	62	14	12
Short.....	29	32	50	31
Adequate.....	5	6	36	52
Surplus.....	1	--	--	5

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	71	65	21	18
Poor.....	25	30	26	19
Fair.....	4	5	37	30
Good.....	--	--	16	26
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	23	21	3	1
Poor.....	24	23	5	6
Fair.....	48	49	15	27
Good.....	4	7	70	50
Excellent.....	1	--	7	16

NA – not available

(--)- zero