

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 20, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana received little moisture this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The majority of the State received less than a tenth of precipitation, with isolated areas receiving over a half inch of moisture. Extremely cold temperatures persisted this week, with average daily temperatures well below normal. For much of the State, average daily temperatures ranged from 8 to 16 degrees below average for this time of year. Reports from Ravalli County indicated extremely cold conditions in the Bitterroot Valley, with temperatures staying below freezing for the week. According to the United States Drought Monitor published on November 17, 2022, 89.6 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, unchanged from last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry remained unchanged at 22.8 percent. Moderate drought was present across 24.9 percent of the State, compared to 24.8 percent of the State last week. Severe drought conditions remained unchanged at 26.4 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions decreased slightly from 15.6 percent last week to 15.5 percent of the State this week. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) totals for the State's basins dropped this week due to the lack of precipitation. The SWE for the St Mary and Milk Basin and the Kootenai Basin dipped below average. All other basins remain above average, with SWE totals ranging from 155 percent of normal in the Sun, Teton, and Marias Basin to 106 percent of normal in the Upper Yellowstone Basin. Sweet Grass County reported cold, snowy conditions this week, and comments indicated little moisture in the soil. Valley County producers were unable to plant much winter wheat due to the dry conditions. Cold temperatures in Judith Basin County are forcing producers to begin feeding livestock, putting a strain on feed stored for the winter. Producers are also continuing to reduce herd sizes. This week an estimated 70 percent of cattle and calves and 77 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, compared to 80 percent moved this time last year for cattle and calves and 84 percent moved for sheep and lambs. An estimated 67 percent of cattle and calves are receiving supplemental feed, compared to 51 percent this time last year and an estimated 60 percent of sheep and lambs are receiving supplemental feed, compared to 42 percent this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	94	91	87	75
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	98	95	84	88
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	70	64	80	83
Receiving supplemental feed.....	67	59	51	49
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	77	70	84	85
Receiving supplemental feed.....	60	56	42	51

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.....	1.2	1.5	6.5	4.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	17	67	19
Short.....	58	49	32	24
Adequate.....	29	32	1	51
Surplus.....	--	2	--	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	46	47	70	23
Short.....	40	33	24	31
Adequate.....	14	18	6	43
Surplus.....	--	2	--	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	30	21	72	29
Poor.....	20	19	27	18
Fair.....	25	33	1	23
Good.....	25	27	--	24
Excellent.....	--	--	--	6
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	22	6
Poor.....	15	13	20	9
Fair.....	54	45	49	30
Good.....	24	29	7	39
Excellent.....	6	12	2	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero