

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 AUGUST 6, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The week was marked by varying temperatures and precipitation according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures ran below average in southern portions of the State according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Temperatures ran as much as 5 degrees below average in the southwest. In the north, however, parts of the State experienced temperatures as much as 5 degrees above average. Drier conditions persisted in much of the north, with only isolated areas receiving rain totals slightly above average. Much of the south fared slightly better, but moisture was less than sufficient in most areas. The exception was in far eastern portions of the State. In isolated portions of Fallon and Wibaux Counties, rain totals were as much as 4 inches above average, also according to the HPRCC. Drought conditions worsened, according to the US Drought Monitor Report released August 3, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free fell to 36.5 percent, compared to 59.6 percent the previous week. The amount of land rated abnormally dry stood at 36.2 percent, an increase of 14.7 percentage points. Moderate drought was found in 17.7 percent of Montana, compared to 10.8 percent the previous week. Severe drought increased to 9.6 percent, an increase of 1.5 percentage points. Rains has dwindled the past four weeks in Chouteau County and very hot conditions persisted. Nonetheless, the wheat crop looked good to excellent, as did all spring crops as compared to the last two seasons. Granite and Powell Counties were hit with extreme heat and sporadic rain. Deer Lodge and Beaverhead Counties also experienced extreme heat, and moisture was less than satisfactory. Conditions were also hot and dry in Valley County. A reporter for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties indicated that heat and dry conditions persevered and moisture was needed. Wildfires in Lake County were moving towards Missoula County, though no damage has been reported yet. Calves were being contracted to be shipped in late October and November, with cattle trucks short in supply. Hay prices in Ravalli County were holding steady at \$200 - \$300 per ton, with larger rounds selling for lower prices. Many fields have received insufficient rains in Sheridan County since the start of the planting season, though sparse rains were received this past week. Conditions were very dry, though nonetheless better than in the previous year. Hail fell in western portions of Richland County that destroyed some crops. Grasshoppers remained a problem. Grasshoppers were also a problem in Prairie County. Yellowstone County experienced cooler temperatures and moisture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	97	94	NA	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	20	8	43	36
Barley				
Turning color.....	63	34	91	88
Harvested.....	32	8	16	13
Canola				
Blooming.....	95	83	NA	NA
Turning color.....	70	44	85	77
Harvested.....	8	1	20	11
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested.....	1	NA	19	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested.....	33	8	45	40
Durum wheat				
Headed.....	95	93	NA	NA
Turning color.....	72	52	69	68
Harvested.....	13	3	8	6
Flaxseed				
Turning color.....	63	36	65	55
Harvested.....	9	3	9	4
Lentils				
Harvested.....	30	2	43	27
Mustard seed				
Turning color.....	78	53	79	76
Harvested.....	21	1	5	4
Oats				
Turning color.....	69	50	80	71
Harvested.....	21	3	17	12
Other hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	92	88	95	NA
2 nd cutting harvested.....	11	7	28	24
Safflower				
Blooming.....	71	61	85	76
Turning color.....	1	NA	45	32
Spring wheat				
Turning color.....	68	43	72	79
Harvested.....	22	1	20	15
Winter wheat				
Turning color.....	95	90	NA	NA
Harvested.....	42	21	48	46
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	1	NA	NA	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	6.4	7.0	6.9	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	16	36	28
Short	50	49	37	36
Adequate.....	33	35	27	35
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	25	16	41	26
Short	41	48	45	37
Adequate.....	34	36	14	36
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor	1	--	6	7
Poor	7	5	22	13
Fair.....	51	60	38	26
Good.....	34	25	32	42
Excellent	7	10	2	12
Canola				
Very poor	1	1	4	5
Poor	6	1	12	11
Fair.....	44	41	37	29
Good.....	42	49	43	40
Excellent	7	8	4	15
Corn				
Very poor	1	--	5	5
Poor	2	9	9	9
Fair.....	19	25	24	23
Good.....	68	62	60	54
Excellent	10	4	2	9
Dry edible peas				
Very poor	1	1	5	NA
Poor	4	2	16	NA
Fair.....	33	24	45	NA
Good.....	60	69	33	NA
Excellent	2	4	1	NA
Durum Wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	11
Poor	19	24	4	8
Fair.....	58	49	52	37
Good.....	21	24	43	38
Excellent	2	3	--	6
Lentils				
Very poor	1	--	2	10
Poor	23	24	7	8
Fair.....	45	36	56	38
Good.....	29	38	34	38
Excellent	2	2	1	6
Mustard seed				
Very poor	--	1	4	1
Poor	13	9	2	9
Fair.....	35	29	79	53
Good.....	50	59	15	32
Excellent	2	2	--	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	4	2	26	19
Poor	15	17	14	16
Fair.....	37	42	29	25
Good.....	41	32	30	35
Excellent	3	7	1	5
Safflower				
Very poor	--	--	--	6
Poor	--	--	4	12
Fair.....	43	36	47	31
Good.....	57	64	49	48
Excellent	--	--	--	3
Spring wheat				
Very poor	--	--	4	9
Poor	15	12	18	15
Fair.....	46	53	41	27
Good.....	35	31	36	41
Excellent	4	4	1	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	8	NA
Poor	7	6	25	NA
Fair.....	43	52	48	NA
Good.....	29	20	16	NA
Excellent	21	22	3	NA

¹Current conditions for Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Oats, and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/

NA – not available
 (--) – zero