

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
 November 13, 2023

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 12, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The majority of Montana received at or below normal amounts of moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Exceptions were in Phillips County and surrounding areas, as well as in Lincoln County and neighboring counties. These parts of the State received above average amounts of precipitation, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Temperatures ran at or above normal, also according to the HPRCC. Temperatures were, on average, as many as 8 – 10 degrees above normal in parts of the northeast. Average temperatures were lower in parts of the west and south. Drought conditions improved once again according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released November 9, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 67 percent, an increase of 5 percentage points. Abnormal dryness was found in 7 percent of Montana, compared with 8 percent last week. Moderate drought fell to 14 percent, a decrease of one percentage point. Severe conditions also improved, now sitting at 12 percent, compared to 14 percent last week. Similar to last week, extreme drought conditions were found in less than one percent of Montana. A small amount of third cutting hay remained on the ground in Broadwater County, and farmers were hoping to finish baling during the new week. Temperatures were pleasant in Chouteau County. Calves were being shipped and cattle were turned back onto pastures. Wheat planting was finished following the extreme cold that hit during the previous week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	84	80	88	69
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	92	78	95	NA
Winter wheat				
Emerged	91	85	95	85
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	74	71	63	75
Receiving supplemental feed	52	47	59	46
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	67	63	69	76
Receiving supplemental feed	49	40	56	50

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.....	5.8	3.6	1.5	3.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	16	9	17	17
Short	34	39	49	30
Adequate	47	49	32	49
Surplus	3	3	2	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	37	38	47	28
Short	27	29	33	29
Adequate	33	32	18	39
Surplus	3	1	2	4

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	5
Poor	5	2	13	10
Fair	40	31	45	31
Good	19	25	29	40
Excellent	35	41	12	14
Pasture and range				
Very poor	18	12	21	27
Poor	20	14	19	17
Fair	24	27	33	24
Good	33	42	27	25
Excellent	5	5	--	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero