According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – August 18, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 80 - to 110-percent of normal for the southwest region; 45- to 60-percent for the western region; 80- to 110-percent for the northeastern region; 80- to 110 percent for the central region; 90- to 110 percent for the northcentral region; 90- to 110-percent for the southcentral region, and 90- to 120-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in the Yellowstone, and lower Missouri River Basins are rated as normal at this time. The Clark Fork River basin is below to much below normal according to the USGS as of August 18, 2015: [http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map)

The August 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only 18 of 54 Montana river basins as above the Extremely Dry category with only six (6) river basins rated as Near Average; three (3) basins are rated as Slightly Dry; with the remaining river basins rated as Moderately Dry See: [http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf](http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf)

Cooler than normal temperatures over the course of the past few weeks have offered a reprieve from 90-degree and above temperatures with little precipitation of July. Harvest of grains is well ahead of normal due to early maturity from the unseasonal heat of mid-summer. The August 16 USDA Crop Progress Report noted topsoil moisture 47-percent Adequate to Surplus and subsoil moisture 48 percent rated as adequate to surplus. The report noted that some rainstorms were heavy although spotty in coverage. Producers were moving livestock off of “exhausted summer ranges early” with 10-percent of sheep and 10 percent of cattle moved.