

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 April 30, 2018

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 29, 2018

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Conditions are warming up quickly and allowing fieldwork to get underway in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The high temperature for the state was recorded in Fort Assinniboine at 85 degrees. The low temperature for the week was recorded in Melville at 15 degrees. Precipitation was reported at 72 weather stations. The highest recorded precipitation for the week was in Miles City with 2.09 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 84 percent adequate to surplus, below last year's 92 percent. Hill County reported that gradual snow melt and winds have left soils crusted and hard. Subsoil moisture conditions are 70 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 89 percent. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 70 percent this week, compared to 58 percent in the same week last year. There was another large increase in grazing accessibility with 79 percent of pastures open, compared to 57 percent in the previous report. Calving progress was reported at 87 percent complete compared to 79 percent in the previous report, and 87 percent at this time last year. Reporters in Lake County noted that producers were branding in preparation for turning cattle out to summer ranges. Winter wheat was reported with 89 percent of the crop breaking dormancy. The spring melt has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop easier for some reporters, condition was rated as 58 percent good to excellent compared to 63 percent this time last year.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	20	--	35	47
Canola				
Planted.....	1	--	13	29
Corn				
Planted.....	3	--	5	11
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	1	--	11	15
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	10	1	55	43
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	1	--	19	18
Lentils				
Planted.....	4	--	27	25
Oats				
Planted.....	2	--	21	27
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	6	--	32	37
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	11	--	31	38
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	89	55	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	87	79	87	87
Moved to pasture.....	24	7	12	16
Receiving supplemental feed.....	70	86	58	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	72	65	85	77
Moved to pasture.....	18	1	9	12
Receiving supplemental feed.....	76	NA	64	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.....	4.7	1.8	3.7	4.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	4	4	1	6
Short.....	12	8	7	17
Adequate.....	54	46	75	68
Surplus.....	30	42	17	9
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	10	1	7
Short.....	17	16	10	19
Adequate.....	46	51	77	66
Surplus.....	24	23	12	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	79	57	91	79
Difficult.....	15	25	6	11
Closed.....	6	18	3	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	15	19	2	7
Poor.....	17	23	8	17
Fair.....	37	33	39	43
Good.....	21	16	38	29
Excellent.....	10	9	13	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	3	1	1	2
Poor.....	7	8	4	6
Fair.....	32	34	32	31
Good.....	15	31	48	46
Excellent.....	43	26	15	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Montana/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2018/MT-Weather-04292018.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/MT-Weather-04292018.pdf)

Notice: Please be advised, the Weekly Crop Progress report’s weather data table may be discontinued for budget reasons. Please contact the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office at (720) 787-3150 with comments or compliments regarding this issue. The Weekly Crop Progress report’s crop progress and condition data will remain and be available.