

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 MONTH OF MARCH 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warmer temperatures and snow melt were widespread throughout Montana for the month of March, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions were 94 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 86 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 87 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 68 percent. Reporters throughout the state welcomed warmer temperatures, but that was accompanied by large amounts of snow melt. Eastern and central areas of the state experienced flooding, however, much of the soil remains frozen, contributing to massive run off and standing water in fields. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains high with 69 percent of reporters observing freeze & drought damage, and 44 percent reporting wind damage. Winter wheat snow coverage for the state is rated 65 percent good to excellent, which aligns with the previous year. Winter wheat condition is rated 62 percent good to excellent, compared with 65 percent last year. Grazing accessibility was limited with 42 percent of grazing lands reported as inaccessible or closed, and 25 percent rated as difficult. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at a slightly lower rate than the previous year, with 95 percent of cattle being fed, compared to 98 percent at this time last year, and 97 percent of sheep being fed, compared to 100 percent at this time last year.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 1, 2019.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	13	4	14	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	95	99	98	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	7	2	5	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	97	100	100	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	2	2	NA
Short.....	5	12	12	NA
Adequate.....	75	81	52	NA
Surplus.....	19	5	34	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	6	11	NA
Short.....	12	16	21	NA
Adequate.....	80	73	50	NA
Surplus.....	7	5	18	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	33	13	16	NA
Difficult.....	25	39	27	NA
Closed.....	42	48	57	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	7	NA	NA
Poor.....	9	15	NA	NA
Fair.....	37	31	NA	NA
Good.....	38	42	NA	NA
Excellent.....	6	5	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	2	NA
Poor.....	4	2	2	NA
Fair.....	33	46	31	NA
Good.....	40	38	48	NA
Excellent.....	22	14	17	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None.....	56	71	83	NA
Light.....	11	15	14	NA
Moderate.....	32	13	1	NA
Heavy.....	1	1	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None.....	31	61	82	NA
Light.....	19	21	13	NA
Moderate.....	47	17	4	NA
Heavy.....	3	1	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	8	--	10	NA
Poor.....	11	3	13	NA
Fair.....	16	16	12	NA
Good.....	34	53	27	NA
Excellent.....	31	28	28	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero