

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
 April 1, 2019

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana continues to wait for spring conditions to arrive, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions were 92 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 87 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 86 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 65 percent. Reporters noted that conditions remained too muddy and wet for field work throughout the state, with flooding reported in much of the state. Calving was reported to be going well in most of the state with the exception west of the Continental Divide where extreme cold temperatures and snow resulted in high calf mortality. Calving progress was reported at 40 percent complete compared to 13 percent in the previous report, and 36 percent at this time last year. The remaining snow has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop difficult in many areas, according to reporters. Winter wheat was reported with 10 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, slightly above last year's progress report of 3 percent for the same week. Sixty-two percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	10	1	3	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	40	13	36	37
Receiving supplemental feed.....	92	95	96	92
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	35	7	15	25
Receiving supplemental feed.....	96	97	98	94

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	1.0	NA	0.6	2.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	1	2	6
Short.....	8	5	11	16
Adequate.....	73	75	46	61
Surplus.....	19	19	41	17
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	1	13	9
Short.....	12	12	22	20
Adequate.....	75	80	51	59
Surplus.....	11	7	14	12

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.....	37	33	21	56
Difficult.....	28	25	36	22
Closed.....	35	42	43	22
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	10	23	9
Poor.....	7	9	39	22
Fair.....	36	37	23	37
Good.....	43	38	15	27
Excellent.....	4	6	--	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor.....	5	4	3	4
Fair.....	32	33	39	35
Good.....	48	40	56	51
Excellent.....	14	22	2	9

NA – not available

-- – zero