

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 WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: After a slow start to spring, warmer weather and scattered rain allowed for some fieldwork to get underway in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 92 percent adequate to surplus, above last year's 88 percent. Lake County reported that fields are still too wet to plant in some areas, but are beginning to dry out after the snow melt. Subsoil moisture conditions are 87 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 74 percent. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 81 percent this week, compared to 86 percent in the same week last year. There was another large increase in grazing accessibility with 74 percent of pastures open, compared to 63 percent in the previous week. Calving progress was reported at 76 percent complete compared to 64 percent in the previous week, and 78 percent at this time last year. Reporters in Judith Basin County noted that producers were branding in preparation for turning cattle out to summer ranges and calves look good overall. Winter wheat was reported with 70 percent of the crop breaking dormancy. Winter wheat conditions have improved with the warm up in temperatures, and were rated as 88 percent good to excellent compared to 57 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.....	11	2	--	27
Canola				
Planted.....	14	--	--	7
Corn				
Planted.....	1	--	--	2
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	3	--	--	3
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	16	2	1	23
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	4	--	--	7
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	11	--	--	7
Lentils				
Planted.....	4	--	--	12
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	3	--	--	3
Oats				
Planted.....	5	--	--	13
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	10	1	--	20
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	17	6	--	15
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	70	45	50	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	76	64	78	78
Moved to pasture.....	4	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	81	88	86	72
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	74	57	63	70
Moved to pasture.....	4	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	82	92	NA	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.....	4.8	3.6	1.8	4.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	--	4	5
Short.....	8	6	8	15
Adequate.....	84	84	46	64
Surplus.....	8	10	42	16
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	2	10	6
Short.....	11	10	16	18
Adequate.....	80	81	51	64
Surplus.....	7	7	23	12

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.....	74	63	57	70
Difficult.....	15	16	25	15
Closed.....	11	21	18	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	--	1	19	7
Poor.....	8	16	23	16
Fair.....	35	33	33	43
Good.....	46	45	16	28
Excellent.....	11	5	9	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	1	3	8	5
Fair.....	11	15	34	31
Good.....	57	56	31	46
Excellent.....	31	26	26	17

NA – not available

(--)- zero