

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 5, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The first week of April produced freezing temperatures accompanied by a spring snow storm across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Phillips and Valley counties noted producers haven't been able to get into the fields but they are preparing equipment for planting. Topsoil moisture conditions were 98 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 94 percent adequate to surplus. Planting progress was minimal across the state. Barley planted was estimated at 2 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 4 percent. Spring wheat planted was reported at 1 percent, which is slightly behind the 5-year average of 2 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 35 percent of the crop breaking dormancy. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 52 percent good to excellent compared to 70 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility improved from the previous report, with an estimated 55 percent of pastures open, compared to 47 percent in the previous report. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 40 percent of cows calved and 39 percent of ewes lambed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	2	NA	--	4
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	1	NA	--	2
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	35	6	24	41
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	40	30	52	50
Receiving supplemental feed.....	95	94	94	90
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	39	25	46	40
Receiving supplemental feed.....	98	98	96	91

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	1.5	NA	2.3	3.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	--	--	5
Short.....	2	10	6	15
Adequate.....	82	72	80	67
Surplus.....	16	18	14	13
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	1	3	6
Short.....	5	5	11	20
Adequate.....	81	71	75	63
Surplus.....	13	23	11	11

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.....	55	47	50	59
Difficult.....	15	16	22	22
Closed.....	30	37	28	19
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	--	NA	2	8
Poor.....	9	NA	16	20
Fair.....	40	NA	30	37
Good.....	39	NA	48	30
Excellent.....	12	NA	4	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	1
Poor.....	2	2	6	9
Fair.....	45	48	23	29
Good.....	50	48	57	49
Excellent.....	2	2	13	12

NA – not available

(--) – zero