

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cold temperatures and precipitation were widespread throughout Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted that minimal planting has occurred due to high soil moisture and reoccurring winter storms. Reporters in Pondera and Valley counties noted the storms will continue to limit planting and livestock grazing for at least another week. Topsoil moisture conditions were 97 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 3 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 11 percent. Spring wheat planted was reported at 2 percent complete, which is behind the 5-year average of 7 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 49 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, ahead of the previous year at 41 percent but behind the 5-year average of 60 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 54 percent good to excellent compared to 82 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility declined from the previous week, with an estimated 45 percent of pastures open, compared to 55 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 49 percent of cows calved and 46 percent of ewes lambled.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	3	2	1	11
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	2	1	1	7
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	1	NA	4	2
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	49	35	41	60
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	49	40	62	63
Receiving supplemental feed.....	94	95	88	83
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	46	39	55	55
Receiving supplemental feed.....	97	98	92	86

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.....	2.7	1.5	3.6	3.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	--	--	4
Short.....	2	2	6	15
Adequate.....	88	82	84	66
Surplus.....	9	16	10	15
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	1	2	6
Short.....	6	5	10	20
Adequate.....	82	81	81	61
Surplus.....	11	13	7	13

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.....	45	55	63	65
Difficult.....	20	15	16	19
Closed.....	35	30	21	16
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	7
Poor.....	6	9	16	20
Fair.....	43	40	33	38
Good.....	38	39	45	29
Excellent.....	12	12	5	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	1	--	1
Poor.....	5	2	3	5
Fair.....	37	45	15	27
Good.....	52	50	56	49
Excellent.....	2	2	26	18

NA – not available

(--)- zero