

# 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 26, 2020

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cooler temperatures and windy conditions were widespread throughout Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted the windy conditions and warmer nights are improving soil conditions for planting. Topsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 10 percent complete, behind the previous year of 20 percent and the 5-year average of 35 percent. Corn planting began last week, with an estimated 5 percent of the crop planted, slightly behind the previous year of 7 percent. Dry edible peas planted is estimated at 11 percent complete, behind both the previous year and 5-year average of 30 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Mustard seed and flaxseed planting has begun, with an estimated 3 percent of both the flaxseed and mustard seed crop planted. Spring wheat planted was reported at 11 percent complete, which is behind the previous year of 19 percent and the 5-year average of 31 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 85 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, slightly behind the previous year at 86 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 63 percent good to excellent, compared to 78 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility improved from the previous week, with an estimated 60 percent of pastures open. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 74 percent of cows calved and 69 percent of ewes lambbed.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	10	4	20	35
Canola				
Planted.....	10	1	21	18
Corn				
Planted.....	5	--	7	8
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	4	--	5	9
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	11	1	30	39
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	2	--	10	15
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	3	--	24	15
Lentils				
Planted.....	6	--	18	22
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	3	--	6	7
Oats				
Planted.....	5	--	7	21
Safflower				
Planted.....	2	--	1	5
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	11	3	19	31
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	10	3	33	30
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	85	65	86	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	74	64	81	84
Moved to pasture.....	5	NA	14	11
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	92	68	65
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	69	57	77	78
Moved to pasture.....	4	NA	15	9
Receiving supplemental feed.....	81	94	75	71

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.....	5.5	3.2	5.1	4.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	--	5	5
Short.....	6	2	11	14
Adequate.....	84	87	76	67
Surplus.....	9	11	8	14
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	--	1	2	6
Short.....	7	4	13	17
Adequate.....	83	84	78	64
Surplus.....	10	11	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.....	60	45	83	82
Difficult.....	21	30	12	11
Closed.....	19	25	5	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	5
Poor.....	3	4	5	12
Fair.....	42	45	44	44
Good.....	40	37	40	31
Excellent.....	14	13	11	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	3	1	2
Poor.....	4	4	4	5
Fair.....	29	29	17	28
Good.....	61	62	40	38
Excellent.....	2	2	38	27

NA – not available

(--)- zero