

# 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 11, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Dry, windy conditions were observed, and minimal moisture was received across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 83 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 18 percent of the state in severe to exceptional drought. Reporters across the state noted that dry conditions persist and the outlook for moisture across the state is minimal. Topsoil moisture conditions were 27 percent adequate to surplus, down significantly from the previous year at 97 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 29 percent adequate to surplus. Planting is starting gradually across the state. Barley planted was estimated at 8 percent complete, slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 7 percent. Planting of dry peas started this week, with an estimate 2 percent of the crop planted. Oats planted is estimate at 3 percent complete, ahead of the previous year, but slightly behind the 5-year average of 4 percent. Spring wheat planted was reported at 6 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 5 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 52 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, ahead of the previous year at 47 percent and the 5-year average of 50 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 58 percent good to excellent compared to 54 percent this time last year. Reporters in Phillips and Wibaux counties stated without moisture, livestock producers could start reducing herds due to lack of water and forage growth. Grazing accessibility is relatively unchanged from the previous week, with an estimated 84 percent of pastures open, compared to 85 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continue to make progress, with 60 percent of cows calved and 45 percent of ewes lambed.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	8	2	3	7
Dry Peas				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	3	--	--	4
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	6	1	2	5
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	52	39	47	50
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	60	49	48	59
Receiving supplemental feed .....	83	93	94	85
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	45	33	45	52
Receiving supplemental feed .....	93	95	97	89

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 .....	6.1	6.3	2.7	3.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	25	22	1	3
Short .....	48	54	2	11
Adequate .....	26	24	88	71
Surplus .....	1	--	9	15
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	20	19	1	5
Short .....	51	52	6	17
Adequate .....	29	29	82	67
Surplus .....	--	--	11	11

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 .....	84	85	45	58
Difficult.....	8	7	20	20
Closed .....	8	8	35	22
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	37	40	1	6
Poor .....	26	24	6	18
Fair .....	29	34	43	37
Good.....	6	2	38	31
Excellent .....	2	--	12	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	4	5	4	1
Poor .....	11	10	5	5
Fair .....	27	28	37	28
Good.....	50	52	52	54
Excellent .....	8	5	2	12

NA – not available

(--)- zero