

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
 May 3, 2021

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and minimal moisture were observed across the state of Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 89 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 31 percent of the state in severe to exceptional drought. Reporters in Daniels and Phillips counties reported minimal moisture was received the past week, and windy conditions continue to dry out the soil. Topsoil moisture conditions were 41 percent adequate to surplus, down significantly from the previous year at 86 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 34 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 38 percent complete, falling slightly behind the 5-year average of 39 percent. Planting of dry edible beans progressed well this week, with an estimated 15 percent of the crop planted, slightly behind the 5-year average of 16 percent. Durum wheat planting has progressed ahead of the previous year, with an estimated 16 percent of the crop planted. Oats planted is estimated at 15 percent complete, falling behind of previous year and behind the 5-year average of 24 percent. Oilseed planting continues, with an estimated 18 percent of canola and 20 percent of flaxseed planted, both behind the 5-year averages of 23 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Spring wheat planted was reported at 33 percent complete, falling slightly behind the 5-year average of 34 percent. Sugarbeet planting progressed well last week, with an estimated 26 percent of the crop planted, behind the 5-year average of 42 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 87 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, behind the previous year at 95 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 46 percent good to excellent compared to 61 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility is up slightly from the previous week, with an estimated 82 percent of pastures open, compared to 80 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continue to make progress, with 86 percent of cows calved and 79 percent of ewes lambed. Producers have begun to move livestock to summer pastures, with an estimated 17 percent of cattle and calves and 20 percent of sheep and lambs moved.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	38	28	31	39
Emerged.....	6	1	3	11
Canola				
Planted.....	18	10	19	23
Corn				
Planted.....	10	5	16	16
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	15	5	9	16
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	38	23	30	45
Emerged.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	16	8	7	20
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	20	13	8	21
Lentils				
Planted.....	30	18	19	29
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	20	9	9	14
Oats				
Planted.....	15	9	16	24
Emerged.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Safflower				
Planted.....	6	1	5	5
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	33	20	30	34
Emerged.....	6	1	1	7
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	26	12	36	42
Emerged.....	4	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	87	77	95	NA
Booted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	86	78	80	87
Moved to pasture.....	17	3	26	27
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	78	57	48
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	79	67	78	81
Moved to pasture.....	20	6	26	24
Receiving supplemental feed.....	73	79	57	54

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.....	6.2	4.5	6.5	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	31	27	2	3
Short.....	28	30	12	13
Adequate.....	39	37	81	72
Surplus.....	2	6	5	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	30	22	1	5
Short.....	36	35	8	14
Adequate.....	34	42	84	69
Surplus.....	--	1	7	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.....	82	80	82	NA
Difficult.....	9	9	8	NA
Closed.....	9	11	10	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	27	24	1	3
Poor.....	33	32	4	8
Fair.....	33	40	42	41
Good.....	6	3	43	37
Excellent.....	1	1	10	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	4	2
Poor.....	20	13	5	6
Fair.....	32	32	30	26
Good.....	40	43	54	46
Excellent.....	6	10	7	20

NA – not available

(--) – zero