

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 MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of February brought little moisture to the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totals for the month ranged from 0.1 inches to 1 inch of moisture for most areas. The northeastern corner of the State was exceptionally dry and received trace amounts of precipitation. Precipitation totals are .75 inches below normal for this time of year in most counties and temperatures remain warm – with average daily temperatures 2 to 6 degrees above normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for February 15, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 2.9 percent, a slight decrease from 3.3 percent on January 25. Moderate drought was present across 3.0 percent of the State, compared with 3.3 percent on January 25. Severe drought decreased from 40.3 percent on January 25 to 37.0 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions increased 5.3 percentage points from 37.9 percent on January 25 to 43.2 percent, while exceptional drought conditions decreased 2.0 percentage points from 7.6 percent on January 25 to 5.6 percent. Overall, 91.9 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions.

Reporters in Wibaux county continue to report very dry conditions, with little snowfall and high winds. Producers were continuing to sell down their herds and some have reported taking livestock to feedlots for the winter. Comments from Valley county indicated warm temperatures and windy conditions. The county has received little snowfall so far this month, and the forecasted snowfall is expected to bring minimal moisture. Snowpack in the mountains remains average for this time of year. Teton county, similar to other counties, reported warm, windy conditions. Due to the warm temperatures, lambing and calving has begun in the county. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 34 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 25 percent adequate, compared with 55 percent very short, 30 percent short, 14 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on the previous report. Subsoil moisture levels were reported as 39 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 23 percent adequate, compared with 60 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 15 percent adequate. Snow cover was rated 14 percent fair, 67 percent poor, and 19 percent very poor. Winter wheat was rated 23 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 21 percent fair, and 21 percent good. Pasture and range conditions were rated 52 percent very poor compared with 68 percent very poor at the end of January. The warmer temperatures continue to be beneficial for calving and lambing, with an estimated 5 percent of calving and lambing completed.

Note: A monthly report will be released for March on Monday, March 28, 2022. The first weekly report will be release on Monday, April 4, 2022.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	5	1	3	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	95	96	97	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	5	1	3	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	98	100	97	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	34	55	12	NA
Short	41	30	41	NA
Adequate	25	14	46	NA
Surplus	--	1	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	39	60	11	NA
Short	38	25	40	NA
Adequate	23	15	48	NA
Surplus	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	57	51	41	NA
Difficult	30	24	24	NA
Closed	13	25	35	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	52	68	21	NA
Poor	31	25	21	NA
Fair	15	6	47	NA
Good	2	1	9	NA
Excellent	--	--	2	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	23	19	2	NA
Poor	35	46	9	NA
Fair	21	21	20	NA
Good	21	14	61	NA
Excellent	--	--	8	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	64	76	57	NA
Light	20	17	26	NA
Moderate	12	6	10	NA
Heavy	4	1	7	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	76	64	71	NA
Light	16	20	20	NA
Moderate	7	14	7	NA
Heavy	1	2	2	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	19	7	10	NA
Poor	67	48	9	NA
Fair	14	35	24	NA
Good	--	9	46	NA
Excellent	--	1	11	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero