

# 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 2, 2023

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:

The past week brought winter storms and significant snow to some areas in the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), temperatures for the week ending April 2, 2023, ranged from 59 degrees to 6 degrees across the State. Drought conditions improved slightly in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on March 30, 2023, 81.1 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry or drought conditions, down from 84.0 percent at the end of March. Thirty-six percent of the state was rated as abnormally dry, 35.0 percent was rated as being in moderate drought, and 10.0 percent was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions.

In Blaine County, snow and windy conditions were reported with livestock feed in high demand. Ravalli County also reported that feed, and minerals continued to be necessary as pastures have not yet begun to produce grass. Valley County reported at least a foot of snowpack remaining and no field activity. The states Winter wheat breaking dormancy was at 4 percent.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	--	NA	2	1
Oats				
Planted .....	--	NA	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Planted .....	--	NA	3	1
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	4	3	31	21
Cattle and calves				
Cows Calved .....	29	13	48	43
Receiving supplemental feed .....	98	97	91	94
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed .....	20	8	43	33
Receiving supplemental feed .....	97	98	99	97

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	1.0	NA	6.9	3.5
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	--	4	55	16
Short.....	12	19	41	23
Adequate.....	84	75	4	49
Surplus.....	4	2	--	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	4	10	48	15
Short.....	39	42	41	26
Adequate.....	56	46	11	52
Surplus.....	1	2	--	7

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.....	29	28	65	56
Difficult.....	23	24	16	20
Closed.....	48	48	19	24
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	18	64	25
Poor.....	31	32	27	21
Fair.....	25	26	7	29
Good.....	26	24	2	21
Excellent.....	1	--	--	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	15	5
Poor.....	9	6	22	12
Fair.....	66	63	53	34
Good.....	24	30	10	44
Excellent.....	--	1	--	5
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None.....	63	64	NA	NA
Light.....	25	25	NA	NA
Moderate.....	11	11	NA	NA
Severe.....	1	--	NA	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None.....	80	80	NA	NA
Light.....	11	12	NA	NA
Moderate.....	8	8	NA	NA
Severe.....	1	--	NA	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	3	1	NA	NA
Poor.....	27	32	NA	NA
Fair.....	29	34	NA	NA
Good.....	34	24	NA	NA
Excellent.....	7	9	NA	NA

NA – not available

(-- ) – zero