

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 DECEMBER 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of December brought above average temperatures and mostly below normal precipitation to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) indicate that temperatures ran about 6-10 degrees above average across most of the State. Moisture received was about 0.75 inch below average to normal for the majority of Montana. In some parts of the central and eastern Montana, moisture levels were as much as 0.75 inches or more above normal. Drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on December 31, 2024, showed there was 6 percent of land rated drought free. Abnormal dryness was found in 40 percent of Montana, moderate drought stood at 27 percent, 13 percent was rated severe drought and 14 percent was at extreme drought. Those extreme drought conditions were in the eastern part of Montana and in the west central part of the state. Comments from central Montana showed 6-9 inches of snow was received. However, in northern part of the State, producers have concerns with the lack of moisture and with the snowpack being below normal.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on February 3, 2025; for February on March 3, 2025; and for March on March 31, 2025.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current report (percent) | Previous report (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cattle and calves Receiving supplemental feed | 87 | 61 | 73 | NA |
| Sheep and lambs Receiving supplemental feed | 87 | 63 | 72 | NA |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| | Current report (percent) | Previous report (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Topsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 27 | 40 | 46 | NA |
| Short | 34 | 42 | 33 | NA |
| Adequate | 38 | 18 | 21 | NA |
| Surplus | 1 | -- | -- | NA |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 31 | 44 | 48 | NA |
| Short | 37 | 40 | 31 | NA |
| Adequate | 32 | 16 | 21 | NA |
| Surplus | -- | -- | -- | NA |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current report (percent) | Previous report (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grazing accessibility | | | | |
| Open | 62 | NA | 87 | NA |
| Difficult | 20 | NA | 5 | NA |
| Closed | 18 | NA | 8 | NA |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 26 | 42 | 36 | NA |
| Poor | 57 | 28 | 24 | NA |
| Fair | 16 | 26 | 17 | NA |
| Good | 1 | 4 | 21 | NA |
| Excellent | -- | -- | 2 | NA |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 4 | 8 | NA |
| Poor | 5 | 5 | 13 | NA |
| Fair | 52 | 52 | 36 | NA |
| Good | 39 | 39 | 26 | NA |
| Excellent | 3 | -- | 17 | NA |
| Winter wheat – wind damage | | | | |
| None | 65 | NA | 73 | NA |
| Light | 21 | NA | 3 | NA |
| Moderate | 10 | NA | 24 | NA |
| Severe | 4 | NA | -- | NA |
| Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage | | | | |
| None | 73 | NA | 73 | NA |
| Light | 16 | NA | 27 | NA |
| Moderate | 9 | NA | -- | NA |
| Severe | 2 | NA | -- | NA |
| Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover | | | | |
| Very poor | 11 | NA | 87 | NA |
| Poor | 53 | NA | 10 | NA |
| Fair | 27 | NA | 1 | NA |
| Good | 5 | NA | 2 | NA |
| Excellent | 4 | NA | -- | NA |

NA – not available

(--) – zero