



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 MARCH 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of March brought mostly above normal temperatures and limited precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Much of the State experienced temperatures ranging from near average to about 5 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Survey reports from Valley County indicated limited moisture at this point of the season. Survey reports from Wibaux County indicated very dry and windy conditions coupled with limited snow cover. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for March 25, roughly 41 percent of the State was drought free, compared with 41 percent on February 27. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 24 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 23 percent; severe drought (D2) at 10 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 2 percent. Calving and lambing were both underway and were 10 and 5 percent complete, respectively, compared with 15 and 12 percent complete a year ago. Supplemental feeding remained heavy for both cattle and sheep. The majority of pastures and ranges were rated in very poor or poor condition, with grazing accessibility increased to 87 percent open, compared with 59 percent open a year ago. The 2025 winter wheat crop was reported as 58 percent good to excellent, an increase of 10 percentage points when compared with last year.

CROPS AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	1	NA	--	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Winter Wheat				
Breaking dormancy	3	NA	13	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	10	4	15	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	96	97	97	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	5	3	12	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	94	94	99	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	22	17	10	NA
Short	24	29	43	NA
Adequate	53	52	47	NA
Surplus	1	2	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	25	22	19	NA
Short	24	38	60	NA
Adequate	51	39	21	NA
Surplus	--	1	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	87	62	59	NA
Difficult	8	25	21	NA
Closed	5	13	20	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	25	26	13	NA
Poor	37	45	39	NA
Fair	37	22	46	NA
Good	1	6	2	NA
Excellent	--	1	--	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	NA
Poor	9	11	3	NA
Fair	32	21	48	NA
Good	58	67	44	NA
Excellent	--	--	4	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	72	70	50	NA
Light	21	22	31	NA
Moderate	6	5	19	NA
Severe	1	3	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	70	75	63	NA
Light	20	16	23	NA
Moderate	9	8	12	NA
Severe	1	1	2	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	63	18	17	NA
Poor	15	40	31	NA
Fair	11	9	35	NA
Good	11	10	14	NA
Excellent	--	23	3	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero