



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
May 12, 2025

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING MAY 11, 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures along with limited precipitation prevailed across Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Much of the State experienced temperatures ranging from 3 to 9 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Survey reports from Big Horn County noted much of the area received so much rain that fieldwork was halted. Survey reports from Hill, Roosevelt, and Toole Counties indicated very dry and windy conditions. Survey reports from Valley County indicated livestock producers were purchasing hay due to very dry conditions. Survey reports from Wibaux County indicated very warm temperatures in the upper 80’s with no rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for May 6, roughly 23 percent of the State was drought free, compared with 26 percent last week. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 22 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 42 percent; severe drought (D2) at 12 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 1 percent. Calving and lambing were both in full swing and were at 66 and 61 percent complete, respectively. This was behind last year’s progress of 90 and 88 percent, respectively. Supplemental feeding remained heavy for both cattle and sheep. Most pastures and ranges remained rated in poor or fair condition, with grazing accessibility 95 percent open, compared with 81 percent open a year ago. The 2025 winter wheat crop was reported as 83 percent good to excellent, an increase of 37 percentage points when compared with last year. Producers remained busy planting spring crops, with progress ahead of normal for most.

NOTE: The Crop-CASMA (**C**rop **C**ondition and **S**oil **M**oisture **A**nytics) for Root Zone Moisture can be accessed at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Montana](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana) by clicking on Crop Progress & Condition. For this data product, the root zone is defined as the top 3.2 feet of soil (approximately 1 meter).

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	58	47	67	64
Emerged	19	10	15	20
Canola				
Planted.....	36	21	31	31
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	16	6	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (including chickpeas)				
Planted.....	41	23	32	31
Emerged	8	--	3	NA
Dry peas				
Planted.....	63	48	60	59
Emerged	10	3	8	13
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	50	40	40	34
Emerged	5	3	22	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	46	29	20	27
Emerged	3	NA	--	2
Lentils				
Planted.....	62	48	63	51
Emerged	11	9	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	55	30	50	40
Emerged	8	NA	5	5
Oats				
Planted.....	40	31	32	36
Emerged	10	4	11	10
Safflower				
Planted.....	10	4	17	20
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	61	42	61	55
Emerged	17	5	16	20
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	85	78	98	NA
Booted.....	1	NA	1	5
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	66	63	90	91
Moved to pasture	14	5	40	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	51	90	43	46
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	61	55	88	84
Moved to pasture	13	6	37	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	47	78	42	44

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	6.1	2.4	4.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	28	14	13
Short	25	20	46	32
Adequate.....	46	49	37	53
Surplus.....	2	3	3	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	30	28	13	18
Short	19	18	52	34
Adequate.....	50	54	32	47
Surplus.....	1	--	3	1
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	95	88	81	80
Difficult	1	7	13	12
Closed.....	4	5	6	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	24	23	10	19
Poor	30	39	20	20
Fair.....	25	25	46	40
Good	18	13	22	19
Excellent	3	--	2	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor	2	2	1	5
Poor	3	3	4	7
Fair.....	12	16	49	43
Good	68	69	38	38
Excellent	15	10	8	7
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				