



MONTANA CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2025

Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 18, 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures along with 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 2 to 4 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Survey reports from Dawson County indicated very dry conditions. Survey reports from Valley County indicated receiving much needed moisture over the weekend. 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 13, roughly 23 percent of the State was drought free, compared with 23 percent last week. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 20 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 39 percent; severe drought (D2) at 17 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 1 percent. Calving and lambing were both in full swing and were at 72 and 67 percent complete, respectively. This was behind last year’s progress of 94 and 92 percent, respectively. The 2025 winter wheat crop was reported as 79 percent good to excellent, an increase of 26 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 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 (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	71	58	78	78
Emerged	37	19	40	41
Canola				
Planted.....	51	36	51	48
Emerged	7	1	4	8
Corn				
Planted.....	32	16	19	39
Emerged	1	NA	4	7
Dry edible beans (including chickpeas)				
Planted.....	53	41	55	54
Emerged	18	8	12	10
Dry peas				
Planted.....	77	63	77	76
Emerged	17	10	26	33
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	77	50	67	55
Emerged	10	5	35	19
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	60	46	44	47
Emerged	8	3	1	12
Lentils				
Planted.....	74	62	83	71
Emerged	15	11	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	70	55	64	61
Emerged	24	8	21	18
Oats				
Planted.....	55	40	56	58
Emerged	32	10	29	27
Safflower				
Planted.....	18	10	23	34
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	76	61	78	74
Emerged	27	17	35	10
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	90	85	NA	NA
Booted.....	14	1	17	16
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	72	66	94	NA
Moved to pasture	28	14	57	50
Receiving supplemental feed	47	51	23	30
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	67	61	92	90
Moved to pasture	18	13	52	54
Receiving supplemental feed	47	47	25	30

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	4.4	6.2	5.6	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	27	9	11
Short	24	25	42	30
Adequate.....	43	46	46	56
Surplus.....	6	2	3	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	34	30	10	17
Short	18	19	46	32
Adequate.....	44	50	41	49
Surplus.....	4	1	3	2
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	93	95	74	82
Difficult	4	1	22	14
Closed.....	3	4	4	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	23	24	7	14
Poor	22	30	14	18
Fair.....	22	25	49	39
Good	23	18	28	25
Excellent	10	3	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	3	2	1	4
Poor	6	3	6	6
Fair.....	12	12	40	41
Good	66	68	37	35
Excellent	13	15	16	14
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				