



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 5, 2025

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm 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 2 to 4 degrees above average, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Survey reports from Blaine and Dawson Counties indicated very dry and windy conditions. Survey reports from Wibaux County indicated livestock producers were purchasing hay due to very dry conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for April 29, roughly 26 percent of the State was drought free, compared with 25 percent last week. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 16 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 44 percent; severe drought (D2) at 12 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 2 percent. Calving and lambing were both in full swing and were at 63 and 55 percent complete, respectively. This was behind last year's progress of 86 and 82 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 at 88 percent open, compared with 85 percent open a year ago. The 2025 winter wheat crop was reported as 79 percent good to excellent, an increase of 42 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**nalYTics) 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.....	47	38	43	41
Emerged	10	5	5	7
Canola				
Planted.....	21	12	24	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	6	1	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (including chickpeas)				
Planted.....	23	13	11	13
Dry peas				
Planted.....	48	38	46	41
Emerged	3	NA	3	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	40	30	27	19
Emerged	3	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	29	17	15	14
Lentils				
Planted.....	48	37	36	30
Emerged	9	NA	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	30	10	30	20
Oats				
Planted.....	31	21	14	17
Emerged	4	NA	7	3
Safflower				
Planted.....	4	3	16	11
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	42	32	50	37
Emerged	5	--	3	6
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	78	77	94	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	63	60	86	85
Moved to pasture	5	3	18	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	90	91	54	61
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	55	52	82	78
Moved to pasture	6	4	16	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	78	93	77	65

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	6.1	6.3	4.8	5.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	28	24	16	17
Short	20	29	55	32
Adequate.....	49	47	29	49
Surplus.....	3	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	28	26	19	21
Short	18	27	58	35
Adequate.....	54	47	23	42
Surplus.....	--	--	--	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	88	87	85	82
Difficult	7	7	6	9
Closed.....	5	6	9	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor	23	20	15	24
Poor	39	34	21	19
Fair.....	25	32	48	34
Good	13	12	15	20
Excellent	--	2	1	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor	2	1	--	5
Poor	3	10	5	9
Fair.....	16	19	58	42
Good	69	60	35	40
Excellent	10	10	2	4
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				