

## WYOMING CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE WYOMING FIELD OFFICE P.O. BOX 1148 · Cheyenne, WY 82003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 27, 2023 Contact: Leslee Lohrenz (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Wyoming saw continued relief from drought conditions in February, with the majority of the State receiving above normal amounts of moisture according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Isolated areas of south-central and north-central Wyoming received precipitation levels as much as 2 inches above average. Some parts of the west, south, and east, however, received below average levels of moisture. Temperatures ran below normal for all of Wyoming in February. Western and central portions of the State were hit the hardest with frigid weather. Areas of Fremont County experienced temperatures in a range of 9-15 degrees below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor report published on February 23, 2023. The amount of land rated drought free increased to 36.6 percent, compared to 29.8 percent as published on January 26, 2023. The amount of land rated abnormally dry stood at 19.6 percent, compared to 25.4 percent at the end of January. Moderate drought was found in 34.1 percent of Wyoming, a significant increase from 24.0 percent last month. Severe drought fell to 8.7 percent, compared to 17.7 percent last month. Extreme drought improved to 1.3 percent, compared to 3.1 percent the end of January. In Carbon County some producers reported that the severe winter conditions required purchasing supplemental feed and clearing grounds of snow in order to bring feed to livestock. A report from Goshen County indicated that soil moisture levels were improving. The bitter cold, however, was hard on livestock and hay supplies were low. Snow covered much of Laramie County. Grasses were expected to improve as warmer weather approached, but it was difficult to assess field conditions at this time. Heavy snowpack was found in Lincoln County, with southern areas seeing the highest amounts of snow. With the higher levels of snow and continued stormy weather, future overland flooding remained a concern with spring on the way. Farmers and ranchers were looking forward to the end of the cold season. Platte County experienced a lot of wind in February. Combined with the snow, producers were seeing very high snow drifts. Though heavy snow systems brought good amounts of moisture, winds were pulling some of that moisture out of pastures and fields. Producers were concerned that soil moisture levels remained low as a result, and more snow or rain was needed. Hay and roughage supplies for Wyoming were rated 23 percent very short, 16 percent short, and 61 percent adequate, compared with 7 percent very short, 23 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 1 percent adequate last month. Stock water supplies across Wyoming were rated 1 percent very short, 10 percent short, 88 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 4 percent very short, 15 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus last month.

**Note:** The next monthly report will be released for March on Monday, March 27, 2023. The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 3, 2023.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average		
Cattle and calves	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Cows calved Sheep and lambs	4	1	3	NA		
Ewes lambed	3	2	3	NA		
Sheep shorn	10	NA	2	NA		

NA - not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION						
	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average		
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Very short		12	42	NA		
Short	20	22	30	NA		
Adequate	65	64	28	NA		
Surplus	15	2		NA		
Subsoil moisture						
Very short	1	15	42	NA		
Short	34	39	38	NA		
Adequate	60	46	20	NA		
Surplus	5			NA		

NA – not available (--) – zero

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Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range	u ,			. ,
Very poor	1	5	28	NA
Poor	36	19	28	NA
Fair	33	31	28	NA
Good	29	42	16	NA
Excellent	1	3		NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	4	4	7	NA
Poor	18	18	29	NA
Fair	58	60	52	NA
Good	20	17	12	NA
Excellent		1		NA
Livestock				
Very poor	1			NA
Poor	1	1	1	NA
Fair	13	8	11	NA
Good	84	86	86	NA
Excellent	1	5	2	NA