

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 FEBRUARY 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of February in Montana started off cold and snowy before temperatures warmed significantly mid-month causing a good amount of snow melt which then froze as temperatures went back below freezing at the end of the month. High temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to the lower 70s and low temperatures ranged from -38 degrees in Port of Morgan to the lower single digits. Precipitation was mostly in the form of snowfall with some rain and was present across the State but in variable amounts, with the highest recorded this month in Heron with 6.73 inches of moisture. Other reporting stations recorded between 0.11 to 5.73 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 85 percent adequate to surplus which is above of last year's 61 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 82 percent adequate to surplus, well above last year's 55 percent. Winter damage to winter wheat increased from the previous month as a result of decreased snow coverage and drastically fluctuating temperatures. The State's snow coverage fell due to warm weather and high winds and is 26 percent good to excellent which is still above the coverage at this time last year when snow coverage was 5 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat condition is rated 51 percent good to excellent, compared with 53 percent last year, but reporters note that there is some concern about meltwater ponding and freezing in fields across the state and only time will tell what damage may have occurred. Livestock grazing is 79 percent open to difficult compared to 78 percent at the same time last year. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at slightly higher rates than the previous year with 99 percent of cattle and 100 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 98 percent of both cattle and sheep last year. Livestock birthing continues with 8 percent of calving and 6 percent of lambing complete so far, which is at the same rate as last year for both cattle and sheep.

The next monthly report will be released for March on Monday, March 27, 2017. Weekly reports will begin on April 3, 2017.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed.....	8	1	8	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	99	96	98	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed.....	6	1	6	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	100	97	98	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	2	10	NA
Short.....	14	11	29	NA
Adequate.....	82	77	58	NA
Surplus.....	3	10	3	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	2	11	NA
Short.....	16	16	34	NA
Adequate.....	77	73	52	NA
Surplus.....	5	9	3	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	59	27	64	NA
Difficult.....	20	29	14	NA
Closed.....	21	44	22	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	NA
Poor.....	6	3	3	NA
Fair.....	42	26	43	NA
Good.....	45	53	41	NA
Excellent.....	6	17	12	NA
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage				
None.....	67	70	77	NA
Light.....	24	23	19	NA
Moderate.....	8	6	3	NA
Heavy.....	1	1	1	NA
Winter Wheat – Freeze & Drought Damage				
None.....	65	73	79	NA
Light.....	25	20	19	NA
Moderate.....	8	6	2	NA
Heavy.....	2	1	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover				
Very Poor.....	9	4	62	NA
Poor.....	36	18	22	NA
Fair.....	29	21	11	NA
Good.....	14	28	3	NA
Excellent.....	12	29	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/MT_Weather_02262017.pdf