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
WEEK ENDING APRIL 22, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Spring conditions finally began to arrive over the past week in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The high temperature for the state was recorded in Hardin at 81 degrees. The low temperature for the week was recorded in West Yellowstone at 12 degrees. Precipitation was reported at 75 weather stations. The highest recorded precipitation for the week was in Yaak with 0.85 of an inch of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 88 percent adequate to surplus, tracking with last year's 94 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 74 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 88 percent. The Chouteau County Soil Moisture Survey was conducted after a month's delay due to heavy snow. The survey concluded that the majority of stubble plots in the county have, "excellent recropping potential." Copies of the survey are available from the Chouteau County Extension Office upon request. Crop reporters noted that conditions remained too wet for field work throughout the state, as spring runoff is occurring with flooding in scattered areas. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 86 percent this week, compared to 66 percent in the same week last year. There was a large increase in grazing accessibility with 57 percent of pastures open, compared to 33 percent in the previous report. Hay supplies remain a concern in Phillips County. Calving progress was reported at 79 percent complete compared to 71 percent in the previous report, and 80 percent at this time last year. The spring melt has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop easier for some reporters, though other reporters were still unable to assess the crop given field conditions. Winter wheat was reported with 55 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, up from 17 percent last week. Reporters in Broadwater county noted winter kill on some winter wheat and alfalfa crops. Fifty-seven percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared to 66 percent last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Dry edible peas				
Planted	1	--	42	27
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	55	17	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	79	71	80	79
Receiving supplemental feed	86	95	66	NA
Moved to pasture	7	NA	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	65	53	80	69
Moved to pasture	1	NA	NA	NA

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	1.8	0.3	4.1	4.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	4	1	1	6
Short	8	12	5	17
Adequate	46	47	80	68
Surplus	42	40	14	9
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	10	9	3	8
Short	16	24	9	20
Adequate	51	47	73	64
Surplus	23	20	15	8

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	57	33	83	75
Difficult	25	37	11	12
Closed	18	30	6	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor	19	19	1	9
Poor	23	36	8	18
Fair	33	29	36	42
Good	16	11	40	27
Excellent	9	5	15	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	1
Poor	8	9	5	5
Fair	34	25	28	31
Good	31	50	53	49
Excellent	26	15	13	14

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/2018/MT-Weather-04222018.pdf