

# 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 18, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cooler temperatures were observed, and minimal moisture was received across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 86 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 19 percent of the state in severe to exceptional drought. Reporters across the state noted some moisture was received, but it did little to improve the drought conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions were 39 percent adequate to surplus, down significantly from the previous year at 98 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 36 percent adequate to surplus. Planting has started for most crops across the state. Barley planted was estimated at 21 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 14 percent. Planting of dry edible beans started this week, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop planted. Durum wheat planting has begun, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop planted. Oats planted is estimated at 6 percent complete, ahead of the previous year, but slightly behind the 5-year average of 8 percent. Oilseed planting has begun ahead of normal, with 2 percent of both canola and flaxseed planted. Spring wheat planted was reported at 15 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 12 percent. Sugarbeet planting is making progress, with an estimate 8 percent of the crop planted, slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 7 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 65 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, ahead of the previous year at 63 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 63 percent good to excellent compared to 64 percent this time last year. Reporters in Custer and Prairie counties stated conditions continue to worsen and spring grass is very slow to grow. Grazing accessibility is relatively unchanged from the previous week, with an estimated 87 percent of pastures open, compared to 84 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continue to make progress, with 69 percent of cows calved and 56 percent of ewes lambbed.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	21	8	4	14
Canola				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	10	2	1	15
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	6	3	--	8
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	15	6	3	12
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	8	1	3	7
Winter wheat				
Emerged.....	65	52	63	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	69	60	62	73
Receiving supplemental feed.....	76	83	92	78
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	56	45	55	67
Receiving supplemental feed.....	80	93	94	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 .....	5.0	6.1	3.2	3.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	22	25	--	3
Short .....	39	48	2	9
Adequate .....	38	26	87	72
Surplus .....	1	1	11	16
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	19	20	1	5
Short .....	45	51	4	14
Adequate .....	36	29	84	69
Surplus .....	--	--	11	12

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 .....	87	84	45	67
Difficult .....	8	8	30	18
Closed .....	5	8	25	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	23	37	1	6
Poor .....	31	26	4	12
Fair .....	37	29	45	40
Good .....	7	6	37	32
Excellent .....	2	2	13	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	2	4	3	1
Poor .....	10	11	4	4
Fair .....	25	27	29	27
Good .....	54	50	62	52
Excellent .....	9	8	2	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero