

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 JANUARY 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of January was windy and relatively dry for the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Minimal precipitation for the season worsened drought conditions slightly. According to the US Drought Monitor, 7.5 percent of the state was drought free and 3.3 percent of the state was abnormally dry. Moderate drought was found in 3.3 percent of the state, up slightly from 3.0 percent at the end of December. Severe drought was found in 37.8 percent of the state, up from last month's 26.6 percent. Extreme drought was found in 40.9 percent of the state, up from last month's 39.6 percent. Exceptional drought was found in 7.1 percent of the state, down from 20.2 percent at the end of December. According to reporters, despite several small snow events over the past month, snow cover throughout most of the state is sparse and winds continue to dry up any moisture received. Snowpack in the mountains is average for this time of year. Many areas of the state experienced above average temperatures, with a few days reaching the mid-50's. In Phillips county, there is some available forage to graze, but more snow was needed to fill depleted reservoirs and improve the long-term forage outlook. Topsoil moisture conditions were 55 percent very short, 30 percent short, 14 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, overall a slight decline from 44 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 23 percent adequate on the previous report. Subsoil moisture conditions also declined to 60 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 15 percent adequate. On the previous report, subsoil moisture conditions were 83 percent very short to short and 17 percent adequate to surplus. Snow cover was rated 10 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat was rated 19 percent very poor, 46 percent poor, 21 percent fair, and 14 percent good. Pasture and range conditions declined from the previous report with 68 percent rated very poor compared to 56 percent rated very poor at the end of December. Weather for calving and lambing has been beneficial, with an estimated 1 percent of calving and lambing completed, equal to the previous year.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for February on Tuesday, February 22, 2022; and for March on Monday, March 28, 2022.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	1	NA	1	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	96	95	92	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	1	NA	1	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	100	99	96	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	55	44	14	NA
Short.....	30	33	43	NA
Adequate.....	14	23	42	NA
Surplus.....	1	--	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	60	47	9	NA
Short.....	25	36	42	NA
Adequate.....	15	17	47	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	2	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	51	29	85	NA
Difficult	24	20	9	NA
Closed	25	51	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	68	56	14	NA
Poor	25	38	28	NA
Fair	6	5	46	NA
Good	1	1	10	NA
Excellent	--	--	2	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	19	16	1	NA
Poor	46	55	4	NA
Fair	21	17	27	NA
Good	14	12	62	NA
Excellent	--	--	6	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	76	64	64	NA
Light	17	14	25	NA
Moderate	6	4	9	NA
Heavy	1	18	2	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	64	63	86	NA
Light	20	14	10	NA
Moderate	14	18	3	NA
Heavy	2	5	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	7	4	71	NA
Poor	48	21	26	NA
Fair	35	23	3	NA
Good	9	50	--	NA
Excellent	1	2	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero