

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 16, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:

The past week brought warmer temperatures and snow melt to many areas in the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office there was little precipitation in the state for the week ending April 16, 2023, at 0.01 inches observed. Temperatures ranged from 80 degrees to 24 degrees across the State. As warmer temperatures thawed winter snowpack, drought conditions improved slightly in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on April 11, 2023, 70.93 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, down from 81.1 percent the previous week. Twenty-nine percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Thirty-four percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, no change from the previous week. Eight percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 10 percent the previous week.

Blaine County reported flooding in low lying areas, following high temperatures. Levels in local creek beds were receding and the Milk River was within its banks at the time of the report. Dawson County reported that the majority of snow melted in the past week, and fields were too wet for work. Chouteau County reported that in order to produce an “average” crop of winter wheat, up to an additional four inches of moisture will be necessary.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	1	1	18	9
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Oats				
Planted.....	2	1	5	2
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	1	--	10	6
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	60	7	70	53
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	60	41	67	66
Receiving supplemental feed.....	91	93	95	86
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambd.....	34	25	59	56
Receiving supplemental feed.....	93	94	97	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.....	1.7	1.5	1.8	3.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	1	51	15
Short.....	9	14	34	18
Adequate.....	88	75	15	55
Surplus.....	2	10	--	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	1	52	17
Short.....	18	37	39	23
Adequate.....	79	59	9	52
Surplus.....	1	3	--	8

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	64	59	63	65
Difficult	21	25	20	20
Closed.....	15	16	17	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor	10	19	69	22
Poor	26	31	22	18
Fair.....	36	33	7	31
Good.....	27	17	2	22
Excellent	1	--	--	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	--	15	4
Poor	3	1	15	8
Fair.....	65	69	54	31
Good.....	29	28	14	43
Excellent	2	2	2	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero