

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 23, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The past week brought colder temperatures and snowfall 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, temperatures ranged from 45 degrees to 22 degrees across the State, while there was 0.01 to 2.1 inches of precipitation observed in the State for the week ending April 23, 2023. 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 18, 2023, 66.7 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, down from 70.9 percent the previous week. Twenty-six-and-a-half percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Thirty-five percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up one percentage point from the previous week. While 5.3 percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 8.0 percent the previous week. Dawson County reported that it was too wet to work in the fields. Valley County reported that they had lots of flooding and some colder weather. Prairie County reported that they had some warmer weather over the last week, which encouraged their winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy, although reports indicated the possibility of significant amounts of winter killed wheat.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	6	1	24	15
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	3	--	4	3
Dry peas				
Planted.....	7	--	19	14
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	4	--	5	4
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	7	1	4	6
Lentils				
Planted.....	4	--	16	9
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	3	--	7	4
Oats				
Planted.....	3	2	8	5
Safflower				
Planted.....	5	--	3	1
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	5	1	17	12
Winter wheat				
Breaking Dormancy	72	60	78	73
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	72	60	77	76
Receiving supplemental feed	91	91	92	77
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	49	34	64	66
Receiving supplemental feed	96	93	93	81

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	1.6	1.7	3.3	4.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	1	49	17
Short	12	9	31	18
Adequate.....	80	88	20	54
Surplus.....	8	2	--	11
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	2	50	17
Short	21	18	36	22
Adequate.....	73	79	14	53
Surplus.....	4	1	--	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	67	34	63	73
Difficult	12	21	17	15
Closed.....	21	15	20	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	14	10	78	24
Poor	24	26	15	14
Fair.....	27	36	6	34
Good	35	27	1	21
Excellent	--	1	--	7
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	1	21	6
Poor	4	3	20	10
Fair.....	58	65	40	30
Good	37	29	17	35
Excellent	1	2	2	19

NA – not available

(--) – zero