

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 DECEMBER 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of December brought above average temperatures and mostly below normal precipitation to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) indicate that temperatures ran about 6-10 degrees above average across most of the State. Moisture received was about 0.75 inch below average to normal for the majority of Montana. In some parts of the central and eastern Montana, moisture levels were as much as 0.75 inches or more above normal. Drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on December 31, 2024, showed there was 6 percent of land rated drought free. Abnormal dryness was found in 40 percent of Montana, moderate drought stood at 27 percent, 13 percent was rated severe drought and 14 percent was at extreme drought. Those extreme drought conditions were in the eastern part of Montana and in the west central part of the state. Comments from central Montana showed 6-9 inches of snow was received. However, in northern part of the State, producers have concerns with the lack of moisture and with the snowpack being below normal.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on February 3, 2025; for February on March 3, 2025; and for March on March 31, 2025.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves Receiving supplemental feed	87	61	73	NA
Sheep and lambs Receiving supplemental feed	87	63	72	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	27	40	46	NA
Short	34	42	33	NA
Adequate	38	18	21	NA
Surplus	1	--	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	31	44	48	NA
Short	37	40	31	NA
Adequate	32	16	21	NA
Surplus	--	--	--	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	62	NA	87	NA
Difficult	20	NA	5	NA
Closed	18	NA	8	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	26	42	36	NA
Poor	57	28	24	NA
Fair	16	26	17	NA
Good	1	4	21	NA
Excellent	--	--	2	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	4	8	NA
Poor	5	5	13	NA
Fair	52	52	36	NA
Good	39	39	26	NA
Excellent	3	--	17	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	65	NA	73	NA
Light	21	NA	3	NA
Moderate	10	NA	24	NA
Severe	4	NA	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	73	NA	73	NA
Light	16	NA	27	NA
Moderate	9	NA	--	NA
Severe	2	NA	--	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	11	NA	87	NA
Poor	53	NA	10	NA
Fair	27	NA	1	NA
Good	5	NA	2	NA
Excellent	4	NA	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero