

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 May 20, 2024

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana was mostly dry, and temperatures were mostly at or below normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation levels fell in a range from normal to slightly below normal for most of Montana, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). In some central parts of the State, moisture levels were about 0.9 inch below normal. Slightly above normal levels were received in isolated areas in the southeast, and in a few northern areas. Average temperatures were mostly in a range from about normal to as high as 6 degrees above normal. In a few isolated areas temperatures measured 8 degrees above the average. Following the abundant rain received the previous week, drought conditions improved. The amount of land rated drought free jumped to 39 percent, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on May 16, 2024. This compares with 14 percent the previous week. Abnormal dryness was found in 23 percent of the State, down 20 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought conditions were found in 29 percent of Montana, down 2 percentage points. Severe drought fell to 8 percent, down from 11 percent. Extreme drought conditions were unchanged, at just under 2 percent. A reporter in Blaine County stated conditions were windy, and rains were scattered. Temperatures were cooler, which slowed crop progress. Rains were minimal in Wibaux County. Winds were excessive, which resulted in drier conditions. Nighttime temperatures were cool, and grasses were growing at a slow pace.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	79	71	74	78
Emerged.....	44	17	20	43
Canola				
Planted.....	54	32	38	52
Emerged.....	5	--	10	11
Corn				
Planted.....	21	5	46	48
Emerged.....	5	--	16	9
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	58	35	64	57
Emerged.....	13	3	20	10
Dry peas				
Planted.....	80	62	66	77
Emerged.....	29	9	25	37
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	71	42	47	53
Emerged.....	37	25	15	19
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	48	21	52	50
Emerged.....	1	--	19	14
Lentils				
Planted.....	86	67	58	70
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	66	53	73	64
Emerged.....	23	6	22	19
Oats				
Planted.....	59	35	52	62
Emerged.....	32	12	20	27
Safflower				
Planted.....	24	17	41	36
Emerged.....	1	--	8	7
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	81	63	67	74
Emerged.....	38	18	34	42
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	17	10	32	61
Winter wheat				
Booted.....	20	1	23	14
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	95	91	94	NA
Moved to pasture.....	59	44	31	52
Receiving supplemental feed.....	23	43	30	33
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	92	89	84	91
Moved to pasture.....	54	41	37	58
Receiving supplemental feed.....	25	42	30	35

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	5.6	2.4	6.4	5.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	14	6	9
Short	42	46	19	24
Adequate.....	46	37	74	63
Surplus.....	3	3	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	10	13	4	15
Short	46	52	37	26
Adequate.....	41	32	58	57
Surplus.....	3	3	1	2

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	74	81	84	85
Difficult	22	13	14	10
Closed.....	4	6	2	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	7	10	6	13
Poor	14	20	17	16
Fair.....	49	46	48	35
Good	28	22	28	30
Excellent	2	2	1	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	1	4
Poor	6	4	2	6
Fair.....	40	49	48	38
Good	37	38	47	36
Excellent	16	8	2	16

NA – not available

(--)- zero