



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 2025

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: January brought a mixed weather pattern to Montana, with varying average temperatures and wide-ranging precipitation totals when compared with monthly normals, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) data, the northeastern corner of the State recorded temperatures more than 6 degrees above average, while much of southwestern Montana felt temperatures up to 6 degrees below average. National Weather Prediction Service (NWPS) data indicated that several locations across the State accumulated precipitation totaling more than 5 inches (snow water equivalent), while some areas remained dry or received only traces of moisture. The heavier accumulations were noted in western and central counties. Survey reports from Valley County indicated limited snow cover as this point of the season. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published for January 28, roughly 4 percent of the State was drought free, compared with 6 percent on December 31. Other drought categorizations included: abnormally dry (D0) at 43 percent; moderate drought (D1) at 29 percent; severe drought (D2) at 19 percent; and extreme drought (D3) at 5 percent. Calving and lambing were both underway and were 1 percent complete, compared with 4 and 3 percent complete a year ago, respectively. Supplemental feeding remained heavy for both cattle and sheep. The majority of pastures and ranges were rated in very poor or poor condition, with grazing accessibility reduced to 36 percent open, compared with 50 percent open a year ago. The 2025 winter wheat crop was reported as 71 percent good to excellent, an increase of 30 percentage points when compared with last year.

Note: Monthly reports will be released 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				
Cows calved.....	1	NA	4	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	94	87	92	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	1	NA	3	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	90	87	95	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.....	28	27	14	NA
Short.....	34	34	54	NA
Adequate.....	35	38	30	NA
Surplus.....	3	1	2	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	33	31	23	NA
Short.....	35	37	46	NA
Adequate.....	30	32	28	NA
Surplus.....	2	--	3	NA

NA – not available
(-) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	36	62	50	NA
Difficult	50	20	35	NA
Closed	14	18	15	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	34	26	19	NA
Poor	28	57	35	NA
Fair	34	16	40	NA
Good	4	1	5	NA
Excellent	--	--	1	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	2	1	--	NA
Poor	5	5	3	NA
Fair	22	52	56	NA
Good	70	39	41	NA
Excellent	1	3	--	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	80	65	48	NA
Light	11	21	37	NA
Moderate	7	10	15	NA
Severe	2	4	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	86	73	47	NA
Light	8	16	32	NA
Moderate	4	9	20	NA
Severe	2	2	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	11	11	8	NA
Poor	10	53	54	NA
Fair	22	27	21	NA
Good	56	5	17	NA
Excellent	1	4	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero