MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MONTANA FIELD OFFICE

10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of December was mostly cold for the state of Montana, though there were brief periods of above average temperatures between storm systems. High temperatures ranged from the high 30s to the high 60s. Low temperatures ranged from the teens to -43 degrees in Saco. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was present across most of the State but a few areas are still below normal. The highest recorded precipitation for the month was in Heron 5.46 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 67 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 88 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 46 percent adequate to surplus which is well below last year's 77 percent. So far, winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains low but reporters note the extent of damage may be hard to gauge until the crop breaks dormancy in the spring, particularly in the northeastern portion of the state. Snow coverage for the state is rated 58 percent good to excellent compared with 59 percent at this time last year. Winter wheat condition is rated 40 percent good to excellent, compared with 58 percent last year. Pasture and range conditions improved from the last report with 12 percent rated good to excellent, but are still lagging compared to 45 percent at the same time last year. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at similar rates as the previous year at this time with 94 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep being fed.

Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 29, 2018; for February on Monday, February 26, 2018; and for March on Monday, March 26, 2018.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Cattle and calves Receiving supplemental feed	94	63	97	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	98	64	98	NA

NA – not available

(--) - zero

SOIL	MOIST	LIRE C	UNDI	TION
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	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	11	15	2	NA
Short	22	28	10	NA
Adequate	62	51	83	NA
Surplus	5	6	5	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	18	22	5	NA
Short	36	42	18	NA
Adequate	44	35	73	NA
Surplus	2	1	4	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Grazing accessibility				
Open	13	NA	23	NA
Difficult	34	NA	39	NA
Closed	53	NA	38	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	50	40	8	NA
Poor	19	25	21	NA
Fair	19	25	26	NA
Good	10	9	36	NA
Excellent	2	1	9	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	3	3		NA
Poor	10	12	4	NA
Fair	47	52	38	NA
Good	31	27	48	NA
Excellent	9	6	10	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	79	NA	66	NA
Light	16	NA	28	NA
Moderate	5	NA	6	NA
Heavy		NA		NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	73	NA	78	NA
Light	18	NA	15	NA
Moderate	5	NA	7	NA
Heavy	4	NA		NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	1	NA	7	NA
Poor	10	NA	5	NA
Fair	31	NA	29	NA
Good	24	NA	40	NA
Excellent	34	NA	19	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_& Condition/2017/MT_Weather_12312017.pdf