

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 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of January was predominately cold and snowy for much of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the low 30s to the mid-50s. Low temperatures ranged from the teens to -42 degrees in Circle and Scobey. 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 with 4.88 inches of moisture. Brockway, Cut Bank, and Harlowton were the only stations that did not report any precipitation. Topsoil moisture conditions were 72 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 67 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 61 percent adequate to surplus which is well below last year's 82 percent. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains low despite icy conditions reported in central areas of the state; with 85 percent of reporters observing no freeze & drought damage, and 86 percent reporting no wind damage. Snow coverage for the state is rated 58 percent good to excellent compared with 57 percent at this time last year. Reporters did note that high winds in the Park county area caused some evaporation of the snow cover. Winter wheat condition is rated 66 percent good to excellent, compared with 70 percent last year. Pasture and range conditions improved from the last report with 16 percent rated good to excellent, compared to 12 percent last month. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at similar rates as the previous year at this time with 96 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep being fed. Reporters noted that ice jam warnings along the Missouri River had ranchers moving livestock to higher ground in Broadwater County.

Monthly reports will be released 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	96	94	96	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	98	98	97	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	11	2	NA
Short.....	21	22	11	NA
Adequate.....	64	62	77	NA
Surplus.....	8	5	10	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	18	2	NA
Short.....	30	36	16	NA
Adequate.....	54	44	73	NA
Surplus.....	7	2	9	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	24	13	27	NA
Difficult.....	38	34	29	NA
Closed.....	38	53	44	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	50	NA	NA
Poor.....	30	19	NA	NA
Fair.....	37	19	NA	NA
Good.....	14	10	NA	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	3	1	NA
Poor.....	3	10	3	NA
Fair.....	31	47	26	NA
Good.....	58	31	53	NA
Excellent.....	8	9	17	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None.....	86	79	70	NA
Light.....	12	16	23	NA
Moderate.....	2	5	6	NA
Heavy.....	--	--	1	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None.....	85	73	73	NA
Light.....	12	18	20	NA
Moderate.....	3	5	6	NA
Heavy.....	--	4	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	6	1	4	NA
Poor.....	12	10	18	NA
Fair.....	24	31	21	NA
Good.....	38	24	28	NA
Excellent.....	20	34	29	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/2018/MT-Weather-01282018.pdf