

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 WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana continues to wait for spring conditions to arrive, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The high temperatures for the state was recorded in Hardin at 62 degrees. The low temperature for the week was recorded in Valentine at -13 degrees. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was reported at 92 weather stations. The highest recorded precipitation for the week was in Rapelje with 2.21 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 89 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 93 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 75 percent adequate to surplus which is well below last year's 87 percent. Reporters noted that conditions remained too wet for field work throughout the state, with snowy conditions reported in much of the state. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 97 percent this week, compared to 96 percent in the previous report. Reporters noted that hay and straw supplies were getting tight, and may cause problems if pastures remain closed due to snow. Cold temperatures, snow cover, and low feed supplies have led to challenging calving conditions per reporters. Large numbers of livestock deaths are being reported in Carter County. Calving progress was reported at 55 percent complete compared to 40 percent in the previous report, and 66 percent at this time last year. The remaining snow has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop difficult in many areas, according to reporters. Winter wheat was reported with 12 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, significantly behind last year's progress report of 80 percent for the same week. Fifty-eight percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared to 63 percent last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	12	3	80	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	55	40	66	56
Receiving supplemental feed	97	96	85	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	30	17	63	39
Receiving supplemental feed	99	98	88	NA

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.....	0.5	0.6	3.7	3.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	2	1	8
Short.....	10	11	6	18
Adequate.....	60	46	82	66
Surplus.....	29	41	11	8
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	5	13	3	10
Short.....	20	22	10	21
Adequate.....	65	51	75	60
Surplus.....	10	14	12	9

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	25	21	78	63
Difficult.....	39	36	15	19
Closed.....	36	43	7	18
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	21	23	1	9
Poor.....	31	39	10	21
Fair.....	32	23	33	40
Good.....	14	15	39	25
Excellent.....	2	--	17	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	2
Poor.....	21	3	5	6
Fair.....	20	39	31	33
Good.....	51	56	56	48
Excellent.....	7	2	7	11

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-04082018.pdf