

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 January 2, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of December was relatively warm and dry for the state of Montana, with many statewide temperatures averaging two to six degrees above normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the high 20s to the mid 60s. Low temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to the teens. Precipitation levels for December were below normal for most of the state, with some areas receiving only 5 to 25 percent of their normal precipitation amount. Topsoil moisture conditions were 86 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions are 93 percent adequate to surplus. 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. Snow coverage for the state is rated 40 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat condition is rated 55 percent good to excellent. Pasture and range conditions improved from the last report with 76 percent rated good to excellent. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at a lower rate than normal, with 75 percent of cattle and 83 percent of sheep being fed.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 27, 2020; for February on Monday, February 24, 2020; and for March on Monday, March 30, 2020.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	75	31	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	83	45	NA	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.....	--	--	NA	NA
Short.....	14	1	NA	NA
Adequate	73	80	NA	NA
Surplus	13	19	NA	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	--	--	NA	NA
Short.....	7	14	NA	NA
Adequate	79	71	NA	NA
Surplus	14	15	NA	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	55	NA	NA	NA
Difficult	30	NA	NA	NA
Closed.....	15	NA	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	5	NA	NA
Poor	3	2	NA	NA
Fair	20	22	NA	NA
Good.....	56	53	NA	NA
Excellent.....	20	18	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	2	NA	NA
Poor	12	6	NA	NA
Fair	29	24	NA	NA
Good.....	25	31	NA	NA
Excellent.....	30	37	NA	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	70	NA	NA	NA
Light	15	NA	NA	NA
Moderate.....	13	NA	NA	NA
Heavy	2	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	61	NA	NA	NA
Light	19	NA	NA	NA
Moderate.....	16	NA	NA	NA
Heavy	4	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	12	NA	NA	NA
Poor	17	NA	NA	NA
Fair	31	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	25	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	15	NA	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero