

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 7, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Conditions are beginning to warm up, but wet fields and continued precipitation is hindering fieldwork in Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted that conditions remained too wet for field work throughout the state, with rain and windy conditions reported in much of the state. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 94 percent adequate to surplus, above last year's 89 percent. Several areas of the state reported that snow melt, rain and wind have left fields saturated and too wet to plant. Subsoil moisture conditions are 86 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 75 percent. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 94 percent this week, compared to 97 percent in the same week last year. There was a large increase in grazing accessibility with 50 percent of pastures open, compared to 37 percent in the previous report. Calving progress was reported at 57 percent complete compared to 40 percent in the previous report, and 53 percent at this time last year. Reporters in Powell County noted that calving conditions are not favorable and morbidity is high. Winter wheat was reported with 30 percent of the crop breaking dormancy. The spring melt has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop easier for some reporters, with the condition rated as 70 percent good to excellent compared to 58 percent this time last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	30	10	11	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	57	40	53	53
Receiving supplemental feed.....	94	92	97	88
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	51	35	28	41
Receiving supplemental feed.....	96	96	99	89

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.....	2.3	1.0	0.5	3.6
Topsoil moisture		(percent)	(percent)	
Very short.....	--	--	1	6
Short.....	6	8	10	16
Adequate.....	80	73	60	65
Surplus.....	14	19	29	13
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	2	5	6
Short.....	11	12	20	20
Adequate.....	75	75	65	63
Surplus.....	11	11	10	11

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.....	50	37	25	59
Difficult.....	22	28	39	20
Closed.....	28	35	36	21
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	2	10	21	8
Poor.....	16	7	31	21
Fair.....	30	36	32	40
Good.....	48	43	14	26
Excellent.....	4	4	2	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	1
Poor.....	6	5	21	8
Fair.....	23	32	20	30
Good.....	57	48	51	50
Excellent.....	13	14	7	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero