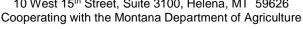


MONTANA CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MONTANA FIELD OFFICE 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 15, 2019 Contact: Eric Sommer (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and precipitation were widespread throughout Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted that minimal planting has occurred due to high soil moisture and muddy conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 94 percent adequate to surplus, above last year's 87 percent. Several areas of the state reported snow and rain storms were observed, which will lead to saturated fields and late planting. Subsoil moisture conditions are 88 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 67 percent. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 88 percent this week, compared to 95 percent in the same week last year. There was a large increase in grazing accessibility with 63 percent of pastures open, compared to 50 percent in the previous week. Calving progress was reported at 64 percent complete compared to 57 percent in the previous week, and 69 percent at this time last year. Winter wheat was reported with 45 percent of the crop breaking dormancy. Reporters noted the winter wheat soil profile is full of moisture and plants are breaking dormancy, with the condition rated as 82 percent good to excellent compared to 65 percent this time last year. Reporters in Hill County noted that the spring weather has been good for calving.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average		
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Barley			_			
Planted	2			15		
Dry edible peas						
Planted	2			NA		
Spring wheat						
Planted	1			10		
Sugarbeets						
Planted	6			4		
Winter wheat						
Breaking dormancy	45	30	16	NA		
Cattle and calves						
Cows calved	64	57	69	66		
Receiving supplemental feed	88	94	95	82		
Sheep and lambs						
Ewes lambed	57	51	50	56		
Receiving supplemental feed	92	96	98	84		
IA – not available		1	1	•		

NA - Hot av

(--) – zero

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DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION						
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average		
Days suitable for field work	3.6	2.3	0.3	3.7		
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Very short			1	4		
Short	6	6	12	17		
Adequate	84	80	47	63		
Surplus	10	14	40	16		
Subsoil moisture						
Very short	2	3	9	7		
Short	10	11	24	20		
Adequate	81	75	47	60		
Surplus	7	11	20	13		

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	63	50	33	63		
Difficult	16	22	37	19		
Closed	21	28	30	18		
Pasture and range						
Very poor	1	2	19	7		
Poor	16	16	36	21		
Fair	33	30	29	40		
Good	45	48	11	26		
Excellent	5	4	5	6		
Winter wheat						
Very poor		1	1	1		
Poor	3	6	9	6		
Fair	15	23	25	29		
Good	56	57	50	50		
Excellent	26	13	15	14		

NA - not available

(--) – zero