

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 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of January produced mild winter conditions with above average temperatures across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Prairie and Custer counties noted there is very little snow cover due to the unseasonably warm temperatures. Precipitation levels through January are below normal for most of the state, and areas in the western part of the state have only received about 70 percent of the normal precipitation amount. Topsoil moisture conditions were 94 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 91 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 19 percent good to excellent, which is below the 40 percent reported for the month of December. Winter wheat condition is rated 71 percent good to excellent. Pasture and range conditions declined from the last report with 45 percent rated good to excellent, compared to 76 percent for the month of December. Cattle and calves and sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feed were both estimated at 96 percent, which aligns with previous years.

Note: Monthly reports will be released 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	96	75	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	96	83	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.....	1	--	NA	NA
Short.....	5	14	NA	NA
Adequate	81	73	NA	NA
Surplus	13	13	NA	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	--	NA	NA
Short.....	8	7	NA	NA
Adequate	79	79	NA	NA
Surplus	12	14	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	67	55	NA	NA
Difficult	19	30	NA	NA
Closed.....	14	15	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	3	1	NA	NA
Poor	12	3	NA	NA
Fair	40	20	NA	NA
Good.....	40	56	NA	NA
Excellent.....	5	20	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	4	NA	NA
Poor	5	12	NA	NA
Fair	24	29	NA	NA
Good.....	40	25	NA	NA
Excellent.....	31	30	NA	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	82	70	NA	NA
Light	13	15	NA	NA
Moderate.....	4	13	NA	NA
Heavy	1	2	NA	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	78	61	NA	NA
Light	17	19	NA	NA
Moderate.....	4	16	NA	NA
Heavy	1	4	NA	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	33	12	NA	NA
Poor	26	17	NA	NA
Fair	22	31	NA	NA
Good.....	17	25	NA	NA
Excellent.....	2	15	NA	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero