

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 19, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cold temperatures and windy conditions were widespread throughout Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted that planting is still minimal due to wet conditions and the soil not warming up enough to start seeding. Reporters in Meagher and Wheatland counties noted the cold conditions have hampered grass growth and winter wheat progress. Topsoil moisture conditions were 98 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 95 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 4 percent complete, behind the previous year of 8 percent and the 5-year average of 24 percent. Planting of pulse crops and oilseeds started slowly last week. Dry edible peas planted is estimated at 1 percent complete, behind both the previous year and 5-year average of 12 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Canola is the first oilseed to make planting progress, with an estimated 1 percent of the crop planted, behind the previous year of 10 percent. Spring wheat planted was reported at 3 percent complete, which is behind the previous year of 7 percent and the 5-year average of 17 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 65 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, slightly ahead of the previous year at 63 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 64 percent good to excellent, compared to 88 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility remained even with the previous week, with an estimated 45 percent of pastures open. The amount of closed pastured decreased, with an estimated 25 percent of pastures closed, compared to 35 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 64 percent of cows calved and 57 percent of ewes lambed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	4	3	8	24
Canola				
Planted.....	1	NA	10	6
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	1	--	12	18
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	3	2	7	17
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	3	1	14	11
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	65	49	63	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	64	49	73	76
Receiving supplemental feed	92	94	81	75
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	57	46	69	70
Receiving supplemental feed	94	97	82	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	3.2	2.7	4.8	4.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	--	1	--	4
Short	2	2	8	14
Adequate	87	88	84	66
Surplus	11	9	8	16
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	1	1	2	6
Short	4	6	11	18
Adequate	84	82	80	63
Surplus	11	11	7	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	45	45	74	73
Difficult	30	20	15	15
Closed	25	35	11	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	1	1	--	7
Poor	4	6	8	14
Fair	45	43	35	40
Good.....	37	38	46	31
Excellent	13	12	11	8
Winter wheat				
Very poor	3	4	--	1
Poor	4	5	1	5
Fair	29	37	11	27
Good.....	62	52	57	47
Excellent	2	2	31	20

NA – not available

(--)- zero