

# 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 MAY 3, 2020

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Cooler temperatures and scattered rain were observed throughout Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters noted some areas of the state received storms last week with heavy rain, wind, and hail which impacted emerged winter wheat. Topsoil moisture conditions were 86 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 91 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 35 percent complete, ahead of the previous year of 29 percent but behind the 5-year average of 50 percent. Corn planting made progress, with an estimated 18 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year of 11 percent. Dry edible peas planted is estimated at 33 percent complete, behind both the previous year and 5-year average of 44 percent and 53 percent, respectively. As oilseed planting continues, an estimated 9 percent of the flaxseed crop is planted, while mustard seed planted is estimated at 10 percent complete, both falling behind the previous year. Planting of sugarbeets progressed well, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop planted, compared to 10 percent the previous week, but still behind the previous year of 44 percent. Spring wheat planted was reported at 33 percent complete, which is ahead of the previous year of 29 percent but behind the 5-year average of 44 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 97 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, slightly ahead of the previous year at 95 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 61 percent good to excellent, compared to 81 percent this time last year. Grazing accessibility continues to improve, with an estimated 82 percent of pastures open. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 81 percent of cows calved and 79 percent of ewes lambbed.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	35	10	29	50
Emerged.....	3	--	4	19
Canola				
Planted.....	20	10	27	31
Corn				
Planted.....	18	5	11	18
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	10	4	12	26
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	33	11	44	53
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	8	2	17	28
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	9	3	30	29
Lentils				
Planted.....	21	6	30	38
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	10	3	20	24
Oats				
Planted.....	18	5	15	33
Emerged.....	1	NA	1	8
Safflower				
Planted.....	6	2	4	13
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	33	11	29	44
Emerged.....	1	--	5	13
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	40	10	44	50
Emerged.....	3	NA	4	NA
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	97	85	95	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	81	74	87	90
Moved to pasture.....	30	5	28	28
Receiving supplemental feed.....	57	78	58	47
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	79	69	82	83
Moved to pasture.....	30	4	36	27
Receiving supplemental feed.....	57	81	66	51

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.....	6.5	5.5	4.2	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	2	1	1	4
Short.....	12	6	12	18
Adequate.....	81	84	77	65
Surplus.....	5	9	10	13
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	--	2	6
Short.....	8	7	14	17
Adequate.....	84	83	77	64
Surplus.....	7	10	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.....	82	60	82	NA
Difficult.....	8	21	12	NA
Closed.....	10	19	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	4
Poor.....	4	3	5	10
Fair.....	42	42	45	41
Good.....	43	40	39	35
Excellent.....	10	14	11	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	4	--	2
Poor.....	5	4	5	6
Fair.....	30	29	14	26
Good.....	54	61	56	43
Excellent.....	7	2	25	23

NA – not available

(--)- zero