

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The majority of Montana received above average precipitation in December according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Increased precipitation improved drought conditions slightly. According to the US Drought Monitor, 7.4 percent of the state was drought free and 3.3 percent of the state was abnormally dry. Moderate drought was found in 3.0 percent of the state, down from 7.2 percent at the end of November. Severe drought was found in 26.6 percent of the state, up slightly from last month's 26.0 percent. Extreme drought was found in 39.6 percent of the state, up from last month's 33.7 percent. Exceptional drought was found in 20.1 percent of the state, down from 33.1 percent at the end of November. Northern areas of the state experienced below average temperatures, while in many southern areas, temperatures ran above normal. Snow cover was sparse in Teton county. In Phillips county, hay supplies were short and more snow was needed to fill depleted reservoirs. The snow that was received benefited damaged wheat fields. Good amounts of snow were received in Valley county. Topsoil moisture conditions were 44 percent very short, 33 percent short and 23 percent adequate, an improvement from 79 percent very short, 17 percent short, and 4 percent adequate on the previous report. Subsoil moisture conditions also improved to 47 percent very short, 36 percent short, and 17 percent adequate. On the previous report, subsoil moisture conditions were 92 percent very short to short and 8 percent adequate to surplus. Snow cover was rated 52 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat was rated 16 percent very poor, 55 percent poor, 17 percent fair, and 12 percent good. Pasture and range conditions improved from the previous report with 56 percent rated very poor compared to 73 percent rated very poor at the end of November. Livestock producers were providing supplemental feed at higher rates than normal, with 95 percent of cattle and calves and 99 percent of sheep and lambs being fed.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 24, 2022; for February on Tuesday, February 22, 2022; and for March on Monday, March 28, 2022.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	95	60	86	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	99	62	85	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	44	79	15	NA
Short.....	33	17	46	NA
Adequate	23	4	39	NA
Surplus	--	--	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	47	71	13	NA
Short.....	36	21	42	NA
Adequate	17	7	45	NA
Surplus	--	1	--	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	29	NA	94	NA
Difficult	20	NA	6	NA
Closed.....	51	NA	--	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	56	73	14	NA
Poor	38	22	28	NA
Fair	5	5	50	NA
Good.....	1	--	8	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	--	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	16	21	1	NA
Poor	55	35	4	NA
Fair	17	37	30	NA
Good.....	12	5	58	NA
Excellent.....	--	2	7	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	64	NA	72	NA
Light	14	NA	14	NA
Moderate.....	4	NA	8	NA
Heavy	18	NA	6	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	63	NA	83	NA
Light	14	NA	13	NA
Moderate.....	18	NA	3	NA
Heavy	5	NA	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	4	NA	44	NA
Poor	21	NA	56	NA
Fair	23	NA	--	NA
Good.....	50	NA	--	NA
Excellent.....	2	NA	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero