

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 FEBRUARY 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of February produced cooler winter conditions and fluctuating temperatures across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state noted they received a couple of decent storm events in February, which improved the snow cover and provided needed moisture. A cold snap pushed temperatures below historical averages, with temperatures dipping below zero into the third week of the month. Temperatures then began to slowly rise closer to the historical averages towards the end of the month. Low temperatures ranged from the low 40s to -20s. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 97 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 8 percent of the state in severe or extreme drought. Topsoil moisture conditions were 47 percent adequate to surplus, up slightly from 43 percent in the previous report. Subsoil moisture conditions were 49 percent adequate to surplus, equal to the previous report. Snow coverage for the state has improved greatly this month, with 57 percent rated good to excellent, compared to no snow cover rated good to excellent in the previous report. Winter wheat condition is rated 69 percent good to excellent, up minimally from 68 percent in the previous report. Reporters in Judith Basin and Prairie counties stated the severe cold and wind chill may have affected the already stressed winter wheat crops. Pasture and range conditions declined slightly from the last report with 11 percent rated good to excellent. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at a normal rate, with 97 percent of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs being fed. Overall, weather for calving and lambing has been excellent, and reporters only heard of minor losses during the sub-zero temperatures. An estimated 3 percent of calving and lambing has been completed, compared to 2 percent and 1 percent, respectively, the previous year.

Note: The next monthly report for March will be released on Monday, March 29, 2021. The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 5, 2021.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	3	1	2	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	97	92	97	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	3	1	1	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	97	92	96	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	14	8	NA
Short.....	41	43	10	NA
Adequate.....	46	42	68	NA
Surplus.....	1	1	14	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	11	9	1	NA
Short.....	40	42	11	NA
Adequate.....	48	47	75	NA
Surplus.....	1	2	13	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.....	41	85	44	NA
Difficult.....	24	9	24	NA
Closed.....	35	6	32	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	21	14	3	NA
Poor.....	21	28	5	NA
Fair.....	47	46	31	NA
Good.....	9	10	45	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	16	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	1	--	NA
Poor.....	9	4	23	NA
Fair.....	20	27	40	NA
Good.....	61	62	25	NA
Excellent.....	8	6	12	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None.....	57	64	47	NA
Light.....	26	25	49	NA
Moderate.....	10	9	4	NA
Heavy.....	7	2	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None.....	71	86	43	NA
Light.....	20	10	53	NA
Moderate.....	7	3	4	NA
Heavy.....	2	1	--	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	10	71	17	NA
Poor.....	9	26	25	NA
Fair.....	24	3	37	NA
Good.....	46	--	18	NA
Excellent.....	11	--	3	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero