

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 25, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and scattered moisture were observed across the state of Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 88 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 28 percent of the state in severe to exceptional drought. Reporters in Broadwater, Judith Basin, and Mineral counties reported some significant moisture events the past week, but overall soil moisture is still very low. Topsoil moisture conditions were 43 percent adequate to surplus, down significantly from the previous year at 93 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions were 43 percent adequate to surplus. Barley planted was estimated at 28 percent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 24 percent. Planting of dry edible beans progressed slightly this week, with an estimated 5 percent of the crop planted, slightly behind the 5-year average of 6 percent. Durum wheat planting has progressed ahead of the previous year, with an estimated 8 percent of the crop planted. Oats planted is estimated at 9 percent complete, ahead of the previous year, but behind the 5-year average of 15 percent. Oilseed planting continues, with an estimated 10 percent of canola and 13 percent of flaxseed planted. Spring wheat planted was reported at 20 percent complete, falling behind the 5-year average of 22 percent. Sugarbeet planting is making progress, with an estimated 12 percent of the crop planted, behind the 5-year average of 20 percent. Winter wheat was reported with 77 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, behind the previous year at 82 percent. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 53 percent good to excellent compared to 63 percent this time last year. Reporters in Golden Valley and Teton counties stated spring grass is very slow to grow due to colder temperatures and lack of moisture. Grazing accessibility is down slightly from the previous week, with an estimated 80 percent of pastures open, compared to 87 percent the previous week. Calving and lambing continue to make progress, with 78 percent of cows calved and 67 percent of ewes lambed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	28	21	9	24
Emerged.....	1	NA	--	4
Canola				
Planted.....	10	2	9	12
Corn				
Planted.....	5	1	4	7
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted.....	5	1	3	6
Dry edible peas				
Planted.....	23	10	10	31
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	8	1	2	12
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	13	2	3	14
Lentils				
Planted.....	18	2	5	17
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	9	--	3	5
Oats				
Planted.....	9	6	4	15
Safflower				
Planted.....	1	--	2	1
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	20	15	10	22
Emerged.....	1	NA	--	1
Sugarbeets				
Planted.....	12	8	9	20
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	77	65	82	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	78	69	73	81
Moved to pasture.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	76	78	67
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	67	56	67	75
Moved to pasture.....	6	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	79	80	81	73

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.....	4.5	5.0	5.5	4.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	22	1	3
Short.....	30	39	6	10
Adequate.....	37	38	84	73
Surplus.....	6	1	9	14
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	22	19	--	5
Short.....	35	45	7	14
Adequate.....	42	36	83	69
Surplus.....	1	--	10	12

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.....	80	87	60	78
Difficult.....	9	8	21	13
Closed.....	11	5	19	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	24	23	1	5
Poor.....	32	31	3	10
Fair.....	40	37	42	42
Good.....	3	7	40	33
Excellent.....	1	2	14	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	4	2
Poor.....	13	10	4	5
Fair.....	32	25	29	28
Good.....	43	54	61	42
Excellent.....	10	9	2	23

NA – not available

(--) – zero