

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 1, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced another week of scattered storms with varying precipitation totals, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The southeastern corner of the State received over 0.7 inches of precipitation, while the northern border remained extremely dry with no measurable precipitation received this week. The remaining areas of the State received minimal moisture, with totals between 0.1 and 0.4 inches. Broadwater and Prairie Counties reported receiving significant moisture this week, however, it was not nearly enough to overcome current drought conditions. Sweet Grass County reported scattered rain showers this week with no significant accumulation. The eastern portion of Roosevelt County received some snowfall accumulation from a spring blizzard; however, the county is still experiencing extreme drought conditions. Despite the spring storms, yearly precipitation totals are 2 inches below normal for the majority of the State. Temperatures continue to be slightly below average. This week, average daily temperatures ranged from normal to 4 degrees below normal for much of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 28, 2022, the amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 5.1 percent, a slight decrease from 5.2 percent last week. Moderate drought was present across 8.2 percent of the State, an increase of 5.3 percentage points from last week. Severe drought increased to cover 37.9 percent of the State, compared to 32.1 percent last week. Extreme drought conditions decreased from 50.4 percent last week to 39.3 percent of the State this week. Overall, 90.5 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, compared to 90.6 percent last week.

Despite the moisture received in Broadwater County this week, producers remain very concerned about the upcoming summer and hay shortages. Phillips County reported another cool, dry week with minimal moisture. There are reports of winter wheat beginning to drought out and pastures are not yet green, but hay supplies are expected to run out in the next few weeks. Corn and sugarbeet planting began this week, a late start compared to last year. Corn was reported at 3 percent planted, compared to 9 percent this time last year and sugarbeets were reported at 1 percent planted, compared to 24 percent this time last year. Emergence of barley and lentils was reported this week, with emergence reported at 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively. Winter wheat was reported at 1 percent booted, compared to 1 percent booted this time last year. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 40 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 27 percent adequate and subsoil moisture levels were reported as 43 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 16 percent adequate.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	44	25	37	31
Emerged	5	--	5	5
Canola				
Planted	15	5	17	16
Corn				
Planted	3	--	9	9
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted	9	5	14	10
Dry edible peas				
Planted	40	20	36	36
Emerged	5	3	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Planted	23	5	15	13
Flaxseed				
Planted	11	4	19	14
Lentils				
Planted	31	18	28	22
Emerged	3	NA	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted	22	8	18	9
Oats				
Planted	16	9	14	14
Safflower				
Planted	7	3	5	3
Spring wheat				
Planted	31	18	31	26
Emerged	7	1	5	3
Sugarbeets				
Planted	1	--	24	31
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	86	79	86	NA
Booted	1	--	1	--
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	82	78	85	85
Moved to Pasture	19	5	15	22
Receiving supplemental feed	84	92	72	54
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	70	64	77	79
Moved to Pasture	24	3	18	21
Receiving supplemental feed	91	96	73	59

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	5.1	3.3	6.2	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	40	49	31	8
Short	33	31	28	16
Adequate	27	20	39	64
Surplus	--	--	2	12
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	43	50	30	9
Short	41	36	36	17
Adequate	16	14	34	64
Surplus	--	--	--	10

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	72	63	82	NA
Difficult	17	17	9	NA
Closed	11	20	9	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	69	78	27	8
Poor	20	15	33	11
Fair	9	6	33	38
Good	2	1	6	32
Excellent	--	--	1	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	25	21	2	3
Poor	24	20	20	9
Fair	39	40	32	26
Good	11	17	40	44
Excellent	1	2	6	18

NA – not available

(--) – zero