

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 15, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week brought cool temperatures and scattered precipitation to Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Rainfall totals for most of the State were 0.6 inches or less while isolated areas received less than 0.15 inches. Counties along the eastern border, however, received upwards of an inch and a half of moisture. Roosevelt County reported significant, much needed moisture. Valley County reported 1.4 to 2 inches of rain which helped green up pastures. Sheridan County reported 2 inches of rainfall and Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties reported 0.5 to 1 inch of rain. Average daily temperatures in the eastern half of the State ranged from average to 4 degrees below average, while average daily temperatures in the western half of the State ranged from 4 to 8 degrees below average. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 12, 2022, 93.1 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry remained at 7.7 percent. Moderate drought conditions increased to cover 20.1 percent of the State, while severe drought conditions decreased slightly to cover 46.2 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions remained at 19.1 percent.

Producers in Sheridan County are continuing to plant spring crops after a delayed start due to the spring snowstorms. Custer County reported significant moisture this week that is helping start pasture growth and corn planting is expected to begin this week. There are reports that the spring snowstorms took a toll on cattle – with some producers reporting losing 25 percent of their calf crop in addition to some adult cows. Judith Basin County received minimal moisture this week and high winds dried up any surface moisture. The county continues to experience persisting drought conditions. Emergence of canola, corn, and safflower was reported this week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	80	60	69	71
Emerged	36	25	41	36
Canola				
Planted	45	30	42	42
Emerged	5	--	NA	NA
Corn				
Planted	25	7	33	42
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted	40	23	42	43
Emerged	4	2	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Planted	80	55	65	73
Emerged	30	15	30	32
Durum wheat				
Planted	50	30	42	48
Emerged	10	1	8	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted	40	20	43	40
Emerged	6	1	10	9
Lentils				
Planted	72	43	56	67
Emerged	30	15	19	19
Mustard seed				
Planted	65	37	43	41
Emerged	15	5	9	NA
Oats				
Planted	50	23	46	50
Emerged	17	5	15	19
Safflower				
Planted	30	15	29	21
Emerged	3	NA	2	1
Spring wheat				
Planted	70	50	68	66
Emerged	30	16	32	30
Sugarbeets				
Planted	20	5	59	76
Winter wheat				
Booted	25	10	4	8
Headed	1	--	1	--
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	92	89	94	NA
Moved to pasture	41	25	47	55
Receiving supplemental feed	64	80	41	30
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	90	85	90	91
Moved to pasture	58	39	51	57
Receiving supplemental feed	56	71	32	36

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	5.8	5.9	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	26	35	23	6
Short	47	42	35	17
Adequate	27	23	39	68
Surplus	--	--	3	9
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	48	52	24	6
Short	31	34	39	17
Adequate	21	14	36	71
Surplus	--	--	1	6

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	75	72	76	NA
Difficult	16	10	10	NA
Closed	9	18	14	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	43	61	32	7
Poor	34	25	27	11
Fair	19	10	29	36
Good	4	4	10	35
Excellent	--	--	2	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	18	21	3	2
Poor	14	18	11	6
Fair	57	48	38	31
Good	11	12	33	41
Excellent	--	1	15	20

NA – not available

(--) – zero