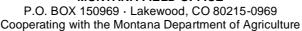
MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MONTANA FIELD OFFICE





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 10, 2023 Contact: Eric Sommer (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:

The past week brought warmer temperatures and snow melt to many areas in the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), much of the state received at least some precipitation for the week ending April 9, 2023. Most areas saw less than ½ an inch of precipitation, while south central and northwestern areas of the state saw up to one inch. Temperatures ranged from 67 degrees to 3 degrees across the State. Drought conditions improved slightly in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on April 4, 2023, 81.1 percent of the State remains abnormally dry or drought conditions, no change from the previous week. Thirty-seven percent of the state was rated as abnormally dry, 34.0 percent was rated as being in moderate drought, down one percent from the previous week. Ten percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, with no change from the previous week.

Ravalli County recommends that operators take preparations with facilities and livestock in the event that warmer weather leads to faster than usual runoff. Hill and Valley counties also reported runoff from melting snow. Winter wheat breaking dormancy was at 7 percent.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average		
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Barley						
Planted	1		7	3		
Oats						
Planted	1		3	1		
Spring wheat						
Planted			6	3		
Winter wheat						
Breaking dormancy	7	4	52	38		
Cattle and calves						
Cows Calved	41	29	53	54		
Receiving supplemental feed	93	98	88	90		
Sheep and lambs						
Ewes lambed	25	20	49	44		
Receiving supplemental feed	94	97	99	96		

NA - not available

(--) - zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION						
	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average		
Days suitable for field work	1.5	1.0	5.8	3.7		
Topsoil moisture						
Very short	1		60	17		
Short	14	12	28	19		
Adequate	75	84	12	52		
Surplus	10	4		12		
Subsoil moisture						
Very short	1	4	57	18		
Short	37	39	34	25		
Adequate	59	56	9	49		
Surplus	3	1		8		

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	59	29	72	60
Difficult	25	23	15	19
Closed	16	48	13	21
Pasture and range				
Very poor	19	17	73	26
Poor	31	31	21	21
Fair	33	25	5	28
Good	17	26	1	20
Excellent		1		5
Winter wheat				
Very poor		1	8	3
Poor	1	9	15	9
Fair	68	66	62	33
Good	28	24	13	44
Excellent	2		2	11

NA – not available (--) – zero