

# 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 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 (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (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 lambbed.....	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