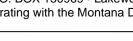


MONTANA CROP PROGRESS United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE **MONTANA FIELD OFFICE** P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 24, 2023

## **CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION** WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The past week brought colder temperatures and snowfall 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 Weather Service Forecast Office, temperatures ranged from 45 degrees to 22 degrees across the State, while there was 0.01 to 2.1 inches of precipitation observed in the State for the week ending April 23, 2023. 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 18, 2023, 66.7 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, down from 70.9 percent the previous week. Twenty-six-and-a-half percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Thirty-five percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up one percentage point from the previous week. While 5.3 percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 8.0 percent the previous week. Dawson County reported that it was too wet to work in the fields. Valley County reported that they had lots of flooding and some colder weather. Prairie County reported that they had some warmer weather over the last week, which encouraged their winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy, although reports indicated the possibility of significant amounts of winter killed wheat.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average		
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Barley	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	· · · · ·	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Planted	6	1	24	15		
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)						
Planted	3		4	3		
Dry peas						
Planted	7		19	14		
Durum wheat						
Planted	4		5	4		
Flaxseed						
Planted	7	1	4	6		
_entils						
Planted	4		16	9		
Mustard seed						
Planted	3		7	4		
Dats						
Planted	3	2	8	5		
Safflower						
Planted	5		3	1		
Spring wheat						
Planted	5	1	17	12		
Ninter wheat						
Breaking Dormancy	72	60	78	73		
Cattle and calves						
Cows calved	72	60	77	76		
Receiving supplemental feed	91	91	92	77		
Sheep and lambs						
Ewes lambed	49	34	64	66		
Receiving supplemental feed	96	93	93	81		

(--) - zero

## DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	1.6	1.7	3.3	4.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short		1	49	17
Short	12	9	31	18
Adequate	80	88	20	54
Surplus	8	2		11
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	2	2	50	17
Short	21	18	36	22
Adequate	73	79	14	53
Surplus	4	1		8

NA – not available (--) – zero

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility			u ,	
Open	67	34	63	73
Difficult	12	21	17	15
Closed	21	15	20	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	14	10	78	24
Poor	24	26	15	14
Fair	27	36	6	34
Good	35	27	1	21
Excellent		1		7
Winter wheat				
Very poor		1	21	6
Poor	4	3	20	10
Fair	58	65	40	30
Good	37	29	17	35
Excellent	1	2	2	19