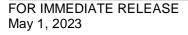


MONTANA CROP PROGRESS United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MONTANA FIELD OFFICE P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969

P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



COUNTS

Contact: Eric Sommer (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The past week brought warmer temperatures and slight snowfall to some areas 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 60 degrees to 36 degrees across the State, while there was 0.01 to 0.85 inches of precipitation observed in the State for the week ending April 30, 2023. Drought conditions improved in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on April 25, 2023, 68.4 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, up from 66.7 percent the previous week. Twenty-seven-and-nine-tenths percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Forty-and-a-half percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up five percentage points from the previous week. Zero percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 5.3 percent the previous week. Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties reported daytime temperatures in the seventies, but nighttime temperatures stayed above freezing causing the grass to start greening up. The warmer daytime temperatures allowed some livestock to be moved to pasture early due to ranchers running short on hay. Ravalli County reported some low elevation snow that had already started to melt. Broadwater County reported that their field work was starting to get caught up due to better weather from a late spring arrival.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average			
(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)			
. ,	. ,	. ,	. ,			
14	6	41	30			
8		3	8			
4	3	8	8			
17	7	37	29			
7	4	20	11			
8	7	10	13			
9	4	29	21			
3	3	20	11			
8	3	15	11			
5	5	6	4			
12	5	29	23			
7	NA	1	21			
86	72	85	89			
80	72	81	83			
73	91	84	64			
63	49	69	74			
71	96	91	68			
	Current week (percent) 14 8 4 17 7 8 9 3 8 9 3 8 9 3 8 5 12 7 86 80 73 63	Current week (percent) Previous week (percent) 14 6 8 4 3 17 7 7 4 8 7 9 4 3 3 8 7 9 4 3 3 5 5 12 5 7 NA 86 72 80 72 73 91 63 49	Current week (percent) Previous week (percent) Previous year (percent) 14 6 41 8 3 4 3 8 17 7 37 7 4 20 8 7 10 9 4 29 3 3 20 8 3 15 5 5 6 12 5 29 7 NA 1 86 72 85 80 72 81 73 49 69			

(--) – zero

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	4.9	1.6	5.1	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	1		40	16
Short	21	12	33	20
Adequate	78	80	27	57
Surplus		8		7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	3	2	43	17
Short	30	21	41	24
Adequate	66	73	16	53
Surplus	1	4		6

NA – not available (--) – zero

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility	v <i>i</i>	u ,	u ,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Open	61	67	72	82
Difficult	15	12	17	11
Closed	24	21	11	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor	15	14	69	21
Poor	25	24	20	15
Fair	31	27	9	34
Good	28	35	2	24
Excellent	1			6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1		25	7
Poor	3	4	24	13
Fair	50	58	39	29
Good	46	37	11	37
Excellent		1	1	14