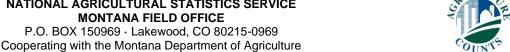
MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 8, 2023

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:

The past week brought moderate temperatures and slower 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 Weather Service Forecast Office most areas of the state saw little precipitation for the week ending May 7, 2023. However, 3.5 inches of hail were reported in "a swath that went from north of Roundup to Melstone." Temperatures ranged from 77 degrees to 35 degrees across the State. Drought conditions continued to persist. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on May 2, 2023, 71.4 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, up from 68.4 percent the previous week. Twenty-five percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Forty-three percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up 2 percent from the previous week. Four percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, up from 0 percent the previous week. None of the state was reported as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Broadwater county reported winter damage to the alfalfa crop in addition to winter damage to the winter wheat crop. Ravalli county noted that high winds and moderate temperatures were slowing crop planting and growth. Blaine county reported several days of sustained winds at greater than 15 mph leading to drier soils, with the northeast portion of the county, "in need of moisture."

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS						
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average		
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)		
Barley	. ,	/	, ,	, ,		
Planted	43	14	58	48		
Emerged			22	13		
Canola						
Planted	2	NA	28	25		
Corn						
Planted	14	8	6	16		
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)						
Planted	5	4	21	20		
Dry edible peas	-	·				
Planted	42	17	53	48		
Emerged	 	NA	14	8		
Durum wheat		100				
Planted	16	7	29	22		
Flaxseed	10	,	25			
Planted	8	8	19	21		
Lentils	O	0	19	21		
Planted	31	9	41	36		
	31	NA NA	13	NA		
Emerged		INA	13	INA		
Mustard seed	e	3	25	23		
Planted	6	-	35			
Emerged		NA	4	NA		
Oats	45		00	0.4		
Planted	15	8	22	24		
Emerged			4	4		
Safflower	4.4	_	4.4	40		
Planted	14	5	14	10		
Spring wheat	0.0	40	4-			
Planted	32	12	47	41		
Emerged	1		15	11		
Sugarbeets						
Planted	7	7	4	39		
Winter wheat						
Breaking dormancy	93	86	94	NA		
Jointing	10	NA	NA	NA		
Booted		NA	9	3		
Cattle and calves						
Cows calved	92	80	88	89		
Moved to pasture	4	NA	NA	NA		
Receiving supplemental feed	62	73	80	57		
Sheep and lambs						
Ewes lambed	75	63	83	82		
Moved to pasture	5	NA	NA	NA		
Receiving supplemental feed	58	71	71	59		

NA – not available

(--) - zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION Previous year Current week Previous week 5-year average Days suitable for field work..... 5.6 4.9 5.8 5.5 Topsoil moisture (percent) (percent) (percent) (percent) 14 21 Very short.....Short 1 23 73 1 21 35 42 78 59 Adequate..... 23 Surplus..... 3 6 Subsoil moisture 3 19 3 52 Very short..... Short 46 30 34 21 Adequate..... 48 66 14 53 Surplus..... 3

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	(1 7	(1 7	(1 7	(1
Open	78	61	72	85
Difficult	15	15	10	7
Closed	7	24	18	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	17	15	61	18
Poor	21	25	25	14
Fair	33	31	10	36
Good	25	28	4	27
Excellent	4	1		5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	21	6
Poor	1	3	18	11
Fair	44	50	48	31
Good	49	46	12	38
Excellent	5		1	14

NA – not available (--) – zero