

# CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Issue: 04-03 (ISSN 0896-4734)  
 Released: 2:00 p.m., MST, April 1, 2004  
 For Month Ending: March 31, 2004

ISSUED: WEEKLY: Apr-Oct  
 MONTHLY: Nov-Mar



MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

10 W 15th St Suite 3100  
 Helena, MT 59626-0033  
 (406) 441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612  
[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/)  
[nass-mt@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mt@nass.usda.gov)

## Agricultural Summary

March brought warmer temperatures with below normal precipitation. Bozeman received the greatest amount of precipitation for the month of March at 0.75 inches. The weather outlook for the week of April 5-11 is for normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the entire state of Montana. Normal temperatures for this period are lows from upper teens to the lower 30s and highs from the middle 40s to middle 50s. Weekly crop weather reports will begin with the report on Monday, April 5, 2004.

### Soil Moisture Condition Table

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	22	10	5
Short	28	24	21
Adequate	48	65	68
Surplus	2	1	6
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	31	28	26
Short	38	50	37
Adequate	30	21	36
Surplus	1	1	1

## Field Crops and Livestock Report

Winter wheat conditions are above last year due to limited freeze, drought, and wind damage. Fieldwork has started with oats, barley, and spring wheat seedings underway in some areas of the state. At the end of the month, one percent of oats and spring wheat acreage were planted and five percent of the barley was planted.

Only 60 percent of the pastures are open for grazing compared to last year's rating of 72 percent open. Calving and lambing are right on schedule with 52 percent and 39 percent completed compared to last year's 56 percent for cattle and 36 percent for sheep.

### Crop Table

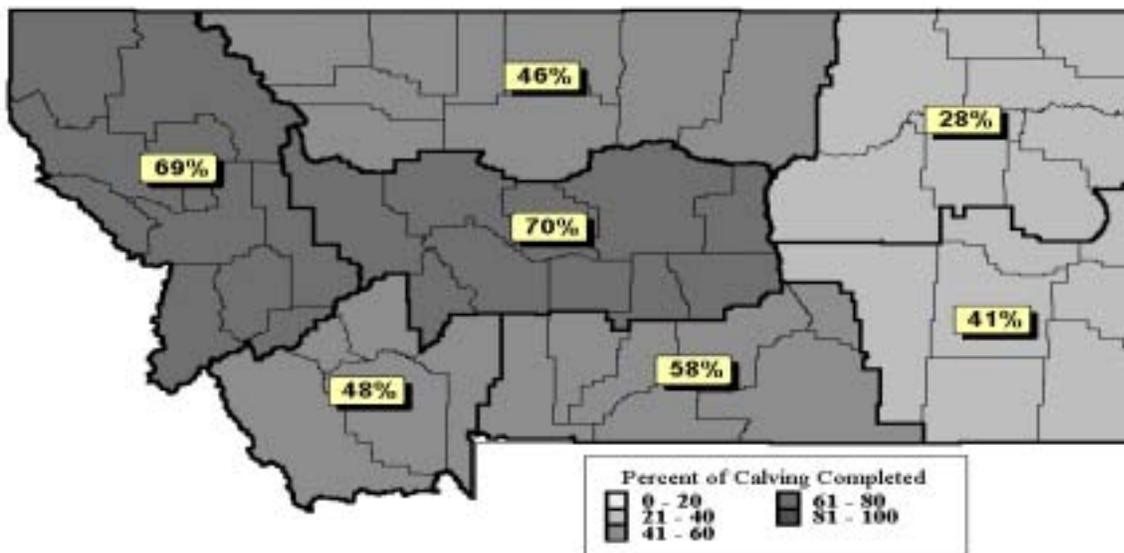
	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat - Condition</b>			
Very Poor	8	3	2
Poor	12	15	9
Fair	33	50	58
Good	40	27	26
Excellent	7	5	5
<b>Winter Wheat - Wind Damage</b>			
None	48	44	55
Light	29	29	29
Moderate	18	19	14
Heavy	5	8	2
<b>Winter Wheat - Freeze &amp; Drought Damage</b>			
None	53	45	57
Light	24	38	26
Moderate	19	16	15
Heavy	4	1	2
<b>Winter Wheat-Spring Stages</b>			
Still Dormant	23	N/A	40
Greening	64	N/A	53
Green & Growing	13	N/A	7

### Livestock Table

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>			
Open	60	28	72
Difficult	9	31	10
Closed	31	41	18
<b>Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>			
Cattle	100	100	98
Sheep and Lambs	100	100	96
<b>Calving Completed</b>			
	52	20	56
<b>Lambing Completed</b>			
	39	10	36

### Percent of Calving Completed

by District for Month ending March 31, 2004



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Compiled and Summarized by:  
 Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

In conjunction with:  
 MSU Extension Agents

USDA County Service Centers  
 National Weather Service

## Weather Information Table For Month Ending: March 31, 2004 1/

STATION	PRECIPITATION					
	March 2004			October 1, 2003 to Date		
	Total	Normal	% Normal	Total 2/	Normal 3/	% Normal
<b>NORTHWEST</b>						
Drummond	0.43	0.75	57	3.68	4.51	82
Hamilton	0.42	0.91	46	2.86	5.91	48
Kalispell	0.55	1.11	50	6.51	7.79	84
Libby	0.46	1.31	35	M	M	M
Missoula	0.55	0.96	57	5.34	5.73	93
Polson	0.48	1.04	46	4.61	6.43	72
Superior	0.69	1.26	55	5.74	8.31	69
Thompson Falls	M	M	M	M	M	M
West Glacier	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>						
Chester	0.00	0.51	0	1.35	2.38	57
Choteau	0.23	0.34	68	1.66	1.77	94
Conrad	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cut Bank	0.07	0.55	13	0.67	2.44	27
Ft. Benton	M	M	M	M	M	M
Gold Butte	0.14	0.70	20	2.69	3.12	86
Harlem	0.04	0.38	11	2.24	2.46	91
Havre	0.09	0.70	13	1.04	3.11	33
Malta	0.13	0.59	22	3.54	2.95	120
Shelby	0.07	0.51	14	0.42	2.53	17
Turner	0.18	0.39	46	4.10	2.25	182
Valier	0.06	0.50	12	1.95	2.31	84
<b>NORTHEAST</b>						
Culbertson	0.24	0.49	49	2.59	2.68	97
Glasgow	0.21	0.47	45	3.54	2.55	139
Glendive	0.09	0.57	16	2.63	3.20	82
Jordan	0.00	0.61	0	1.38	3.31	42
Plentywood	M	M	M	M	M	M
Scobey	0.09	0.54	17	2.50	2.26	111
Sidney	0.17	0.56	30	3.07	3.47	88
Wolf Point	0.18	0.50	36	2.37	2.64	90
<b>CENTRAL</b>						
Cascade	M	M	M	M	M	M
Flatwillow	0.40	0.70	57	2.75	3.46	79
Great Falls	0.19	1.01	19	1.05	4.39	24
Harlowton	0.06	0.73	8	2.51	3.35	75
Helena	0.37	0.63	59	1.65	3.13	53
Lewistown	0.47	1.16	41	3.35	5.25	64
Melstone	M	M	M	M	M	M
Roundup	0.11	0.64	17	2.65	3.26	81
Stanford	0.22	0.98	22	4.05	4.44	91
White Sulphur Spr	0.12	0.84	14	1.60	3.59	45
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>						
Anaconda	0.46	1.04	44	4.33	4.39	99
Belgrade	0.27	1.02	26	2.65	4.65	57
Bozeman MSU	0.75	1.40	54	5.82	6.44	90
Butte	0.21	0.83	25	1.43	3.75	38
Dillon	0.16	0.66	24	1.07	2.87	37
Ennis	0.43	0.88	49	3.52	3.89	90
Wisdom	M	M	M	3.86	4.05	95
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>						
Billings	0.13	1.12	12	3.45	5.19	66
Gardiner	0.06	0.63	10	1.43	3.17	45
Hardin	0.25	0.67	37	3.95	3.99	99
Livingston	0.36	0.85	42	3.76	4.47	84
Rapelje	0.13	1.02	13	2.43	4.68	52
Red Lodge	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>						
Baker	0.73	0.61	120	1.96	3.74	52
Broadus	0.48	0.87	55	2.76	4.10	67
Ekalaka	0.14	0.81	17	4.01	4.86	83
Miles City	0.04	0.58	7	2.26	3.52	64

1/ Data from National Weather Service. 2/ May be revised weekly. 3/ For period 1971-2000. M-More than 25% of reporting days are missing.

Peggy Stringer,  
State Statistician

Stephen Brueske, Meteorologist-in-Charge  
National Weather Service - (406) 453-2081

Dr. Douglas L. Steele, Director of Extension  
Montana State University