

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
 APRIL 6, 2015

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 5, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Measurable precipitation was widely scattered across Montana for the week ending April 5, 2015, and initially warm temperatures turned wintery as the week drew to a close. Reporters across the State noted that, while winter wheat and pastures were greening, moisture was needed soon to avoid rapid decline in their conditions. Producers in many areas of the State were able to begin spring fieldwork and seeding with 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork compared with 0.9 days the previous year, but some areas experienced wind damage later in the week. Producers began seeding barley and spring wheat with 4 percent of barley and 1 percent of spring wheat seeded by the week's end. Livestock continued to overwinter well and producers have enjoyed a largely mild birthing season though high winds and the return of freezing nights at the end of this week stressed some of the young animals.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley planted	4	NA	--	7
Cows calved	47	23	50	57
Cattle receiving supplemental feed	90	96	81	NA
Ewes lambed	38	15	34	42
Livestock grazing				
Closed	8	9	29	22
Difficult	20	24	22	18
Open	72	67	49	60
Sheep receiving supplemental feed	88	96	83	NA
Spring wheat planted	1	NA	--	3
Winter wheat breaking dormancy	60	35	NA	NA

(NA) – not available

(--) – zero

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	5	NA	3	8
Poor	20	NA	18	21
Fair	44	NA	51	43
Good	30	NA	25	26
Excellent	1	NA	3	2

(NA) – not available

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.6	NA	0.9	3.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	6	2	8
Short.....	21	22	8	16
Adequate	58	56	72	63
Surplus	13	16	18	13
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	6	3	9
Short.....	21	23	8	20
Adequate	53	48	79	64
Surplus	20	23	10	7

(NA) – not available

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Winter wheat	2	6	31	33	28

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_04_062015.pdf