

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 2015

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana was mostly dry with warm days and freezing nights this week but a spring snow storm provided much needed precipitation to parts of the State, while other areas were missed entirely. The need for adequate precipitation to prevent further deterioration of soil conditions is becoming critical across the State and producers in many areas are having to seed into dry ground. Mild daytime conditions have allowed producers to get out into the fields with 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork this week and planting is well ahead of last year at this time. Barley has begun to emerge ahead of both last year and the five year average with 3 percent emerged. There are reports of powdery mildew showing up on winter wheat in the central portion of the State and winter wheat conditions have declined slightly from the previous week. Livestock producers continue to provide supplemental feed at rates lower than last year thanks to warmer weather but grasses are growing slowly in some areas.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity               | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barley                  |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 47                        | 20                         | 9                          | 24                          |
| Emerged.....            | 3                         | NA                         | --                         | 1                           |
| Camelina                |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 7                         | 1                          | --                         | 17                          |
| Canola                  |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 3                         | NA                         | --                         | 8                           |
| Dry beans               |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 1                         | NA                         | --                         | 4                           |
| Dry peas                |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 8                         | NA                         | 5                          | 16                          |
| Durum wheat             |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 3                         | NA                         | --                         | 8                           |
| Lentils                 |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 1                         | NA                         | 3                          | 11                          |
| Mustard seed            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 1                         | NA                         | 3                          | 7                           |
| Oats                    |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 13                        | 5                          | --                         | 11                          |
| Safflower               |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 2                         | NA                         | --                         | 4                           |
| Spring wheat            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 21                        | 10                         | 5                          | 14                          |
| Sugarbeets              |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....           | 20                        | --                         | 6                          | 14                          |
| Winter wheat            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Breaking dormancy ..... | 94                        | 88                         | NA                         | NA                          |

*Table continued on back*

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS -- continued**

|  | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cattle receiving supplemental feed ..... | 80        | 85        | 89        | NA        |
| Sheep receiving supplemental feed .....  | 75        | 80        | 90        | NA        |
| Cows calved .....                        | 73        | 61        | 70        | 75        |
| Ewes lambled .....                       | 67        | 49        | 54        | 58        |
| Livestock grazing                        |           |           |           |           |
| Closed .....                             | 9         | 8         | 30        | 18        |
| Difficult .....                          | 15        | 16        | 19        | 17        |
| Open.....                                | 76        | 76        | 51        | 65        |

(NA) – not available

-- -- zero

**PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

|                   | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pasture and Range |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Very poor.....    | 4                         | 4                          | 3                          | 8                           |
| Poor.....         | 14                        | 16                         | 23                         | 21                          |
| Fair.....         | 49                        | 46                         | 41                         | 40                          |
| Good.....         | 30                        | 31                         | 31                         | 29                          |
| Excellent.....    | 3                         | 3                          | 2                          | 2                           |

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

| Commodity                         | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for fieldwork ..... | 5.8          | 5.0           | 3.7           | 3.2            |
| Topsoil moisture                  | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                   | 8            | 7             | 2             | 6              |
| Short.....                        | 27           | 22            | 10            | 17             |
| Adequate.....                     | 54           | 61            | 75            | 63             |
| Surplus.....                      | 11           | 10            | 13            | 14             |
| Subsoil moisture                  |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                   | 7            | 6             | 3             | 9              |
| Short.....                        | 22           | 21            | 11            | 21             |
| Adequate.....                     | 55           | 53            | 76            | 62             |
| Surplus.....                      | 16           | 20            | 10            | 8              |

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION**

| Commodity         | Very poor | Poor      | Fair      | Good      | Excellent |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                   | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Winter wheat..... | 2         | 6         | 29        | 40        | 23        |

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\\_04192015.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_04192015.pdf)