

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
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF JANUARY 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: January started cold with scattered snowstorms for much of Montana before conditions became mild and temperatures warmed significantly for the last part of the month. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s to the lower 60s and low temperatures ranged from -30 degrees to the upper single digits. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was present across the State but in variable amounts, with the highest recorded this month in Heron with 3.58 inches of moisture, other reporting stations recorded between 0.06 to 2.14 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 83 percent adequate to surplus which is slightly behind last year's 84 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 68 percent adequate, slightly above last year's 67 percent. Winter damage to winter wheat increased from the previous month as a result of decreased snow coverage. The State's snow coverage fell to 34 percent good to excellent which is better than it was at this time last year when snow coverage was 25 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat condition is rated 72 percent good to excellent, compared with 58 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 56 percent open to difficult compared to 67 percent at the same time last year. Cold weather and lack of grass have more producers providing supplemental feed at higher rates than the previous year with 99 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 96 percent of both cattle and sheep last year. Livestock birthing has begun for the season with 2 percent of calving and lambing complete so far which is behind the five year average of 3 percent for cattle but ahead of the five year average of 1 percent for sheep.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed.....	2	NA	2	3
Receiving supplemental feed.....	99	97	96	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed.....	2	NA	1	1
Receiving supplemental feed.....	98	98	96	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	5	4	2	NA
Short.....	12	16	14	NA
Adequate.....	79	76	77	NA
Surplus.....	4	4	7	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	7	5	NA
Short.....	24	26	15	NA
Adequate.....	65	63	68	NA
Surplus.....	3	4	12	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	28	24	43	NA
Difficult.....	28	38	24	NA
Closed.....	44	38	33	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	NA
Poor.....	3	2	8	NA
Fair.....	24	24	34	NA
Good.....	52	60	48	NA
Excellent.....	20	14	10	NA
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage				
None.....	81	91	77	NA
Light.....	18	8	16	NA
Moderate.....	1	1	5	NA
Heavy.....	--	--	2	NA
Winter Wheat – Freeze & Drought Damage				
None.....	78	88	79	NA
Light.....	20	10	14	NA
Moderate.....	2	2	7	NA
Heavy.....	--	--	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover				
Very Poor.....	17	6	31	NA
Poor.....	19	13	24	NA
Fair.....	30	28	20	NA
Good.....	23	35	13	NA
Excellent.....	11	18	12	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

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

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/MT_Weather_01312016.pdf