

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2016

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** March was largely mild and dry with limited moisture across Montana. High temperatures ranged from the mid 50s to the middle 70s and low temperatures ranged from -17 degrees to 24 degrees. Most of the state recorded at least some precipitation but the amount received varied widely, with the highest recorded this month in Heron with 4.61 inches of moisture, and other reporting stations recording between 0.02 to 3.42 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 47 percent adequate to surplus which is well behind last year's 72 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 36 percent adequate to surplus, also below last year's 71 percent. The State's snow coverage increased to 12 percent good to excellent which is above last year at this time when snow coverage was 0 percent good to excellent. However, winter wheat condition was below the previous year and is rated 49 percent good to excellent, compared with 58 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 81 percent open to difficult compared to 91 percent at the same time last year. Dry conditions and lack of grass have more producers providing supplemental feed with 98 percent of cattle and 95 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 96 percent of both cattle and sheep. Livestock birthing continues in mild conditions for the season with 13 percent of calving and 11 percent of lambing complete.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	3	NA	--	NA
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed .....	13	8	23	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	96	98	96	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed .....	11	6	15	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	95	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.....	25	10	6	NA
Short.....	28	29	22	NA
Adequate.....	47	58	56	NA
Surplus.....	--	3	16	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	23	11	6	NA
Short.....	41	34	23	NA
Adequate.....	36	52	48	NA
Surplus.....	--	3	23	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.....	72	64	67	NA
Difficult.....	9	14	24	NA
Closed.....	19	22	9	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	NA
Poor.....	4	3	7	NA
Fair.....	46	43	33	NA
Good.....	46	41	30	NA
Excellent.....	3	12	28	NA
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage				
None.....	77	77	75	NA
Light.....	14	19	18	NA
Moderate.....	8	3	5	NA
Heavy.....	1	1	2	NA
Winter Wheat – Freeze & Drought Damage				
None.....	75	79	70	NA
Light.....	16	19	21	NA
Moderate.....	8	2	7	NA
Heavy.....	1	--	2	NA
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover				
Very Poor.....	52	62	69	NA
Poor.....	20	22	17	NA
Fair.....	16	11	14	NA
Good.....	4	3	--	NA
Excellent.....	8	2	--	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\\_0327016.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/MT_Weather_0327016.pdf)