

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 DECEMBER 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of December was mostly very cold with periods of snow and high wind for the state of Montana, though there were brief periods of above average temperatures between storm systems. High temperatures ranged from the lower 30s to the lower 50s and all reporting stations recorded subzero lows with the coldest reported in West Yellowstone and Wisdom at -43 degrees. Precipitation in the form of snowfall was present across the State but in variable amounts, with the highest recorded this month in West Yellowstone with 3.78 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 88 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 80 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 77 percent adequate to surplus which is well above last year's 67 percent. So far winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains low but reporters note the extent of damage may be hard to gauge until the crop breaks dormancy in the spring, particularly in the central portion of the state. Snow coverage for the state is rated 59 percent good to excellent compared with 53 percent at this time last year. Winter wheat condition is rated 58 percent good to excellent, compared with 74 percent last year. Pasture and range conditions improved from the last report with 45 percent rated good to excellent, which is a great improvement over last year's 16 percent. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at same rate as the previous year at this time with 97 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep being fed.

Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 30, 2017; for February on Monday, February 27, 2017; and for March on Monday, March 27, 2017.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	97	22	97	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	98	27	98	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	9	4	NA
Short.....	10	19	16	NA
Adequate.....	83	62	76	NA
Surplus.....	5	10	4	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	5	10	7	NA
Short.....	18	24	26	NA
Adequate.....	73	57	63	NA
Surplus.....	4	9	4	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	23	NA	24	NA
Difficult.....	39	NA	38	NA
Closed.....	38	NA	38	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	8	12	19	NA
Poor.....	21	16	27	NA
Fair.....	26	38	38	NA
Good.....	36	29	14	NA
Excellent.....	9	5	2	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	4	2	2	NA
Fair.....	38	21	24	NA
Good.....	48	49	60	NA
Excellent.....	10	28	14	NA
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage				
None.....	66	NA	91	NA
Light.....	28	NA	8	NA
Moderate.....	6	NA	1	NA
Heavy.....	--	NA	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Freeze & Drought Damage				
None.....	78	NA	88	NA
Light.....	15	NA	10	NA
Moderate.....	7	NA	2	NA
Heavy.....	--	NA	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover				
Very Poor.....	7	NA	6	NA
Poor.....	5	NA	13	NA
Fair.....	29	NA	28	NA
Good.....	40	NA	35	NA
Excellent.....	19	NA	18	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_12312016.pdf