

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th 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 JANUARY 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of January was predominately cold and snowy for much of Montana with a warm spell toward the end of the month. High temperatures ranged from the lower 30s to the mid 50s and low temperatures ranged from -46 degrees in Wisdom to -5 degrees. Precipitation was mostly in the form of snowfall and was present across the State but in variable amounts, with the highest recorded this month in West Yellowstone with 1.92 inches of moisture. Other reporting stations recorded between 0.04 to 1.84 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 87 percent adequate to surplus which is slightly ahead of last year's 83 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 82 percent adequate, well above last year's 68 percent. Winter damage to winter wheat increased from the previous month as a result of decreased snow coverage and bitterly cold weather. The State's snow coverage fell to 57 percent good to excellent which is still better than coverage was at this time last year when snow coverage was 34 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat condition is rated 70 percent good to excellent, compared with 72 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 56 percent open to difficult compared to 62 percent at the same time last year. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at slightly lower rates than the previous year with 96 percent of cattle and 97 percent of sheep being fed, compared with 99 percent of cattle and 98 percent of sheep last year. Livestock birthing has begun for the season with 1 percent of calving and lambing complete so far, which is behind last year's 2 percent for both cattle and sheep.

Monthly reports will be released 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				
Calving completed.....	1	NA	2	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	96	97	99	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed.....	1	NA	2	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	97	98	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	2	5	NA
Short.....	11	10	12	NA
Adequate.....	77	83	79	NA
Surplus.....	10	5	4	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	5	8	NA
Short.....	16	18	24	NA
Adequate.....	73	73	65	NA
Surplus.....	9	4	3	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.....	27	23	28	NA
Difficult.....	29	39	28	NA
Closed.....	44	38	44	NA
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	NA
Poor.....	3	4	3	NA
Fair.....	26	38	24	NA
Good.....	53	48	52	NA
Excellent.....	17	10	20	NA
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage				
None.....	70	66	81	NA
Light.....	23	28	18	NA
Moderate.....	6	6	1	NA
Heavy.....	1	--	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Freeze & Drought Damage				
None.....	73	78	78	NA
Light.....	20	15	20	NA
Moderate.....	6	7	2	NA
Heavy.....	1	--	--	NA
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover				
Very Poor.....	4	7	17	NA
Poor.....	18	5	19	NA
Fair.....	21	29	30	NA
Good.....	28	40	23	NA
Excellent.....	29	19	11	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/2017/MT_Weather_01292017.pdf