

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
 April 17, 2017

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week was mostly spring-like temperatures with scattered precipitation in the form of rain and snow which varied greatly across Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the low 50s to the lower 80s and low temperatures ranged from 11 degrees in Wisdom to the lower 30s. Precipitation in the form of rain and snow was present but varied across the State, with the highest amount recorded in Great Falls with 1.36 inches of moisture. Other reporting stations recorded receiving between none to 1.24 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus which is above of last year's 61 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 87 percent adequate to surplus, well above last year's 55 percent. Some reporters are noting that fields are too wet to begin planting and there were only 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork this week compared with 4.5 days suitable last year and the 5-year average of 4.3 days suitable. Despite these difficulties in some areas, dry peas, lentils, oats and sugar beets seeding has begun for some with 9 percent of dry peas, 1 percent of lentils, 1 percent of oats, and 2 percent of sugars beets planted so far which is behind both last year and the 5-year average for those crops. Winter wheat condition is rated 77 percent good to excellent, compared with 58 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 94 percent open to difficult compared to 83 percent at the same time last year. Pasture and range conditions are emerging from winter with 56 percent rated good to excellent compared with 21 percent last year and the 5-year average of 26 percent.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	9	1	39	29
Dry edible peas				
Planted	9	--	35	NA
Lentils				
Planted	1	NA	17	NA
Oats				
Planted	1	--	30	15
Sugar beets				
Planted	2	--	9	10
Spring wheat				
Planted	8	2	32	17
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	95	83	81	NA
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed.....	77	68	75	71
Receiving supplemental feed	75	85	72	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed	75	65	72	58
Receiving supplemental feed	79	88	81	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.9	3.7	4.5	4.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	1	10	8
Short.....	6	6	29	24
Adequate.....	79	82	58	61
Surplus.....	14	11	3	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	3	11	10
Short.....	10	10	34	26
Adequate.....	72	75	53	57
Surplus.....	15	12	2	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	81	78	70	67
Difficult.....	13	15	13	17
Closed.....	6	7	17	16
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	1	10	9
Poor.....	9	10	21	22
Fair.....	34	33	48	43
Good.....	40	39	19	24
Excellent.....	16	17	2	2
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	5	5	4	7
Fair.....	27	31	37	33
Good.....	55	56	52	46
Excellent.....	12	7	6	12

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_04162017.pdf