

# 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  
 April 18, 2022

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 17, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Montana received a significant spring snowstorm this week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties reported 8 to 10 inches of snow accumulation. Areas of Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties received several inches of snow, but some portions of these counties reported no measurable accumulation. Broadwater County, however, received minimal snowfall and remained dry this week. The storm was accompanied by freezing temperatures and high winds. Average daily temperatures for most of the State ranged from 18 to 24 degrees -- 20 degrees below normal for this time of year. Despite the significant snowfall in some areas, drought conditions remained largely unchanged. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 14, 2022, 90.6 percent of the State continues to experience drought conditions, unchanged from last week. The amount of land rated as abnormally dry was 5.2 percent, compared to 5.3 percent last week and moderate drought was present across 2.9 percent of the State, compared to 2.8 percent last week. Severe drought conditions decreased slightly from 30.1 percent last week to 30.0 percent of the State. Extreme drought conditions increased slightly to cover 52.5 percent of the State, compared to 52.4 percent last week.

Despite the snow received in Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties, the high winds continued to dry out topsoil. Broadwater County was missed by the storm and producers are very concerned about the ongoing drought conditions. Producers in Richland County reported the snow and winds made lambing and calving very difficult this week. Although the moisture was welcomed, the cold temperatures and excessive winds took a toll on livestock. Valley County reported some loss of young livestock and there were reports of scours in calves in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties due to the drastic change in weather this week. Producers in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties do not anticipate damage to fruit trees and reported grass is beginning to grow in some areas. Spring crop planting is slowly getting underway. Canola, dry edible bean, durum wheat, flaxseed, lentil, mustard seed, and safflower planting all began this week. Barley, dry edible pea, oat, and spring wheat planting is progressing similarly to last year for all crops, as is calving and lambing. Calving was reported at 69 percent cows calved, compared to 68 percent this time last year and lambing was reported at 61 percent ewes lambed, compared to 54 percent this time last year. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 51 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 15 percent adequate, compared with 60 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 12 percent adequate last week. Subsoil moisture levels were reported as 52 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 9 percent adequate, compared with 57 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 9 percent adequate last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	20	8	19	8
Canola				
Planted .....	2	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Planted .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Planted .....	15	2	9	6
Durum wheat				
Planted .....	3	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed				
Planted .....	2	NA	NA	NA
Lentils				
Planted .....	3	NA	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Planted .....	1	NA	--	--
Oats				
Planted .....	5	3	6	2
Safflower				
Planted .....	1	NA	--	--
Spring wheat				
Planted .....	10	7	14	6
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy .....	73	55	63	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	69	54	68	69
Receiving supplemental feed .....	95	88	76	80
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed .....	61	50	54	61
Receiving supplemental feed .....	97	99	80	NA

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work .....	1.8	5.8	5.0	3.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	51	60	22	5
Short .....	34	28	39	12
Adequate .....	15	12	38	68
Surplus .....	--	--	1	15
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	52	57	19	7
Short .....	39	34	45	17
Adequate .....	9	9	36	65
Surplus .....	--	--	--	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open .....	63	72	87	69
Difficult .....	20	15	8	18
Closed .....	17	13	5	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor .....	69	73	23	9
Poor .....	22	21	31	15
Fair .....	7	5	37	37
Good .....	2	1	7	29
Excellent .....	--	--	2	10
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	15	8	2	1
Poor .....	15	15	10	6
Fair .....	54	62	25	25
Good .....	14	13	54	52
Excellent .....	2	2	9	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero