

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 WEEK ENDING APRIL 7, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures ran above normal for the majority of Montana according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran as high as ten degrees above normal in the northeast according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Precipitation varied. Moisture levels were at or below normal in parts of the northwest, northeast, and south-central Montana. Elsewhere, moisture levels ran higher. Portions of Cascade County saw precipitation levels approaching 1.8 inches above average. No changes were seen in drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on April 4, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free remained unchanged at almost 6 percent. Abnormal dryness held steady at 53 percent. Moderate, severe, and extreme conditions were also unchanged, at 25, 16, and 1 percent, respectively. Soil moisture measurements were taken the past week in Chouteau County. With the exception of the Knees, poor to fair re-cropping potential was found at sites north of the Missouri River. Re-cropping potential for the Knees and sites south of the Missouri River were rated good to excellent. There was little to no moisture in Wibaux County, but abundant wind. Water levels in ponds were low and in need of precipitation and run off water.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week | Previous report | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Barley | | | | |
| Planted..... | 1 | -- | 1 | 3 |
| Oats | | | | |
| Planted..... | 1 | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Breaking dormancy | 60 | 42 | 6 | 33 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Cows calved..... | 54 | 43 | 38 | 49 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 95 | 95 | 93 | 90 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Ewes lambled | 32 | 29 | 24 | 40 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 95 | 92 | 94 | 96 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| | Current week | Previous report | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Days suitable for field work..... | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 3.7 |
| Topsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 7 | 7 | 1 | 17 |
| Short | 37 | 36 | 14 | 20 |
| Adequate | 55 | 56 | 75 | 56 |
| Surplus | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 12 | 16 | 1 | 16 |
| Short | 48 | 54 | 37 | 28 |
| Adequate | 39 | 30 | 59 | 51 |
| Surplus | 1 | -- | 3 | 5 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous report (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grazing accessibility | | | | |
| Open | 77 | 68 | 59 | 62 |
| Difficult | 13 | 14 | 25 | 18 |
| Closed | 10 | 18 | 16 | 20 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 19 | 15 | 19 | 26 |
| Poor | 28 | 35 | 31 | 20 |
| Fair | 48 | 39 | 33 | 28 |
| Good | 4 | 10 | 17 | 22 |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 | -- | 4 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 1 | 1 | -- | 3 |
| Poor | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Fair | 32 | 39 | 69 | 44 |
| Good | 59 | 53 | 28 | 40 |
| Excellent | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 |

NA – not available

(--) – zero