

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 28, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Temperatures ran above normal, and conditions were dry for the majority of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures ran, on average, as much as 5 degrees above normal in much of the eastern half of the state, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Precipitation levels were in a range of about 0.2 to 0.6 inches below normal for most of Montana. Exceptions were in northwestern and southwestern portions of the State, where some areas received moisture levels in a range of about 0.2 to 0.6 inches above normal. Isolated areas received as much as 0.8 inches above normal. Changes in drought conditions were minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report released on April 25, 2024. The amount of land rated drought free remained unchanged at 14 percent. Abnormal dryness was found in 46 percent of the State, compared to 51 percent the previous week. Moderate drought increased by 4 percentage points to 27 percent. Severe drought stood at 11 percent, down 1 percentage point. Extreme conditions were found in 2 percent of Montana, up from almost 1 percent the previous week. Most of the calving was complete in Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties. Calving was still underway on a few ranches where calving began late. Green growth was evident on grasses, though conditions were predominantly dry. Some rain fell in Ravalli County at the end of the week, but more rain was needed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted.....	30	21	12	24
Canola				
Planted.....	17	2	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	8	2	4	6
Dry peas				
Planted.....	26	6	14	25
Durum wheat				
Planted.....	22	5	6	10
Flaxseed				
Planted.....	11	2	8	13
Lentils				
Planted.....	15	3	8	18
Mustard seed				
Planted.....	11	2	3	9
Oats				
Planted.....	7	4	7	10
Emerged.....	1	NA	--	NA
Safflower				
Planted.....	14	5	5	4
Spring wheat				
Planted.....	35	7	10	20
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	93	91	82	85
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	83	77	78	80
Moved to pasture.....	12	1	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	74	73	71
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	78	57	59	70
Moved to pasture.....	13	2	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	87	74	71	73

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	6.7	5.8	4.9	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	10	1	16
Short	57	52	21	21
Adequate.....	29	38	78	60
Surplus.....	--	--	--	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	10	3	16
Short	54	48	30	26
Adequate.....	32	41	66	55
Surplus.....	--	1	1	3

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	84	82	61	76
Difficult	7	8	15	12
Closed.....	9	10	24	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	20	18	15	22
Poor	24	27	25	17
Fair.....	41	42	31	32
Good	13	12	28	24
Excellent	2	1	1	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	7
Poor	5	5	3	11
Fair.....	52	43	50	34
Good	41	50	46	38
Excellent	2	2	--	10

NA – not available

(--)- zero