

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 lambd	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	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(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