



# Crop Weather Report

**Issue: 12-01**  
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Monthly: Nov-Mar

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For the Month Ending:  
January 31, 2012

## Weather Summary

Montana saw unseasonably warm days and frigid nights for most of the month of January with temperatures that fluctuated from below zero and to mid 60s. The average low temperature was in the mid 20s to lower 30s at most reporting stations. Superior received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 3.62 inches of moisture. Outside the Northwest region, stations received at 0.01 of an inch to 1.53 inches of moisture in January. High temperatures were in the upper 40s and mid 60s, with Hardin, Huntley, and Valentine all reaching 66 degrees. A majority of stations reported lows below 0 degrees, the coldest being Goldbutte at -33 degrees, followed by Opheim and Turner with -28 degrees in January.

The weather outlook for February 6<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup> is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation on both east and west sides of the Great Divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the upper 20s to upper 30s, with lows 5 to 20 degrees.

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 54 percent compared with 91 percent last year. Subsoil moisture also declined with 53 percent adequate and surplus compared to 82 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report on January 6, 2012, snow water content state-wide was 82 percent of average and 112 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 80 percent of average and 106 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 80 percent of average and 113 percent of last year.

## Livestock Report

Grazing conditions are 86 percent open so far this winter, far above last year's 46 percent. Heavy snow and freezing conditions increased the need to provide supplemental feed from last month to 87 percent of cattle and 88 percent of sheep. Livestock birthing has begun nearly on pace with last year with 3 percent calving completed and 1 percent lambing completed.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Birthing</b>			
Calving Complete	3	na	3
Lambing Complete	1	na	1
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>			
Open	64	84	11
Difficult	22	11	35
Closed	14	5	54
<b>Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>			
Cattle and Calves	87	72	96
Sheep and Lambs	88	69	96

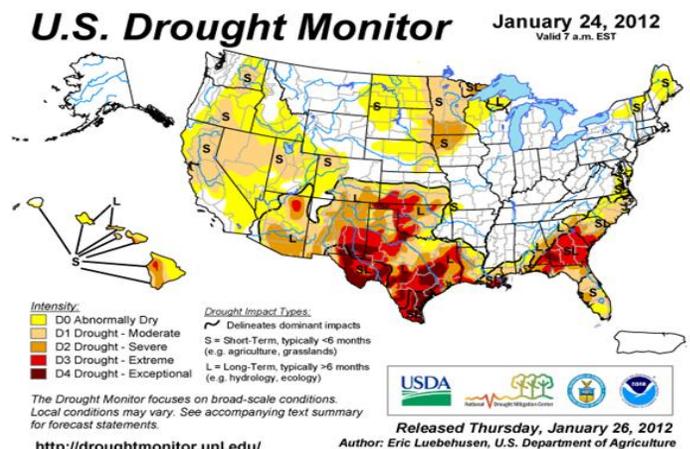
Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	11	8	1
Short	35	40	8
Adequate	53	50	74
Surplus	1	2	17
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	13	13	4
Short	34	36	14
Adequate	48	46	77
Surplus	5	5	5

## Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is rated 26 percent good to excellent, compared to 72 percent good to excellent from last January as warm but windy periods were offset by periods of heavy snow and subzero temperatures, often in the same week. Wind damage increased to 28 percent moderate to heavy, up from last month's 5 percent and last year's 1 percent.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat</b>			
Very Poor	2	2	0
Poor	10	7	2
Fair	62	61	25
Good	23	26	59
Excellent	3	4	14
<b>Winter Wheat – Wind Damage</b>			
None	50	71	85
Light	22	24	14
Moderate	25	3	1
Heavy	3	2	0
<b>Winter Wheat – Freeze and Drought Damage</b>			
None	61	83	87
Light	32	17	11
Moderate	6	0	2
Heavy	1	0	0
<b>Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover</b>			
Very Poor	73	92	1
Poor	14	6	6
Fair	8	2	26
Good	4	0	59
Excellent	1	0	8

The U.S. Drought Monitor map displayed below can be found at: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:  
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents  
USDA County Service Centers

**Weather Information for the month ending 01/31/2012**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation November			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
<b>NORTHWEST</b>										
Alberton	50	8	28	+6	2.11	+1.11	211	6.81	+2.87	173
Anaconda	55	-4	29	+6	0.32	-0.24	57	3.69	+0.82	129
Clinton	46	3	28	+10	1.38	-0.02	99	4.87	-0.66	88
Corvallis	55	8	31	+6	0.97	+0.30	145	3.58	+0.59	120
Creston	54	5	28	+6	0.74	-0.50	60	3.73	-1.89	66
Deer Lodge	51	-8	26	+5	0.35	+0.04	113	1.71	+0.05	103
Drummond	47	-3	27	+6	1.07	+0.32	143	3.16	+0.05	102
Hamilton	53	8	30	+5	1.66	+0.61	158	5.76	+1.81	146
Kalispell	52	0	27	+6	1.23	-0.16	88	4.37	-1.08	80
Missoula	49	7	29	+6	1.46	+0.46	146	4.99	+1.05	127
Olney	46	-3	19	+2	2.23	+0.00	100	7.75	-0.54	93
Polson	55	10	29	+3	0.79	-0.26	75	4.68	+0.23	105
St Ignatius	60	9	30	+5	1.66	+0.73	178	5.66	+1.45	134
Seeley Lake	49	-12	25	+6	2.77	+0.47	120	8.77	+0.33	104
Sula	52	0	28	+8	0.68	-0.22	76	5.93	+1.71	141
Superior	51	12	30	+4	3.62	+2.22	259	8.63	+2.80	148
Swan Lake	38	4	23	+3	0.53	-2.27	19	6.35	-5.67	53
Thompson Falls	54	11	31	+4	2.51	+0.08	103	10.14	+0.64	107
West Glacier	55	7	27	+6	2.29	-0.69	77	9.50	-1.87	84
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>										
Chester	56	-27	22	+7	0.45	+0.09	125	2.38	+0.79	150
Chinook	61	-21	23	+11	0.05	-0.47	10	1.15	-1.01	53
Choteau	65	-22	27	+4	0.49	+0.24	196	2.45	+1.21	198
Cut Bank	58	-24	25	+7	0.20	-0.17	54	2.87	+1.28	181
Ft Assiniboine	59	-22	23	+10	0.17	-0.29	37	0.95	-1.27	43
Fort Benton	64	-23	25	+3	0.69	+0.16	130	2.57	+0.18	108
Goldbutte	56	-33	24	+5	0.26	-0.14	65	3.71	+1.64	179
Harlem	60	-21	23	+10	0.25	-0.14	64	2.02	+0.28	116
Havre	60	-20	24	+11	0.29	-0.16	64	1.09	-0.94	54
Malta	59	-21	25	+16	0.04	-0.32	11	2.14	+0.09	104
Rudyard	58	-20	22	+5	0.38	+0.13	152	1.58	+0.35	128
Shelby	57	-25	23	+4	0.21	-0.21	50	2.70	+0.78	141
Turner	55	-28	22	+11	0.09	-0.20	31	1.71	+0.03	102
Valier	59	-27	24	+3	0.29	+0.00	100	2.16	+0.61	139
<b>NORTHEAST</b>										
Bredette	52	-25	19	+9	0.13	-0.15	46	2.16	+0.46	127
Culbertson	57	-20	21	+11	0.13	-0.16	45	1.19	-0.75	61
Glasgow	56	-15	23	+13	0.16	-0.17	48	1.82	+0.02	101
Glendive	63	-11	27	+13	0.11	-0.28	28	1.43	-0.85	63
Jordan	65	-11	25	+12	0.37	-0.12	76	2.21	-0.11	95
Nashua	57	-19	23	+8	0.08	-0.21	28	1.91	+0.22	113
Opheim	51	-28	18	+11	0.00	-0.26	0	0.84	-0.68	55
Plentywood	53	-24	19	+10	0.23	-0.09	72	1.74	-0.08	96
St Marie	54	-22	20	+10	0.07	-0.26	21	1.19	-0.61	66
Scobey	53	-20	19	+12	0.01	-0.25	4	2.22	+0.64	141
Sidney	61	-16	25	+12	0.10	-0.29	26	0.94	-1.59	37
Wolf Point	56	-14	21	+10	0.10	-0.33	23	1.43	-0.44	76
<b>CENTRAL</b>										
Cascade	59	-19	27	+4	0.47	-0.01	98	3.03	+0.64	127
Grass Range	64	-17	27	+5	0.84	+0.08	111	3.91	+0.98	133
Great Falls	59	-21	29	+8	0.28	-0.36	44	3.04	+0.21	107
Harlowton	58	-13	24	+2	0.95	+0.52	221	3.27	+1.06	148
Helena	53	-9	26	+7	1.26	+0.76	252	2.64	+0.54	126
Lewistown	60	-16	27	+6	0.58	-0.27	68	4.02	+0.54	116
Martinsdale	57	-15	27	+4	1.03	+0.56	219	2.58	+0.32	114
Neihart	52	-5	27	+4	1.44	+0.55	162	6.36	+2.07	148
Rogers Pass	57	-18	25	+5	0.99	+0.24	132	4.62	+1.24	137
Roundup	63	-11	29	+5	0.90	+0.49	220	3.32	+1.08	148
Ryegate	60	-14	24	+5	0.82	+0.32	164	2.55	+0.31	114
Stanford	65	-20	27	+4	0.99	+0.34	152	3.07	+0.13	104
Townsend	59	-5	27	+5	0.34	+0.01	103	1.53	-0.15	91
Valentine	66	-15	24	+10	0.60	+0.02	103	3.03	+0.70	130
Wht Sulphur Spr	53	-10	27	+6	0.44	-0.01	98	1.41	-0.94	60
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>										
Boulder	54	-6	28	+7	0.17	-0.21	45	1.68	-0.30	85
Bozeman	52	4	30	+8	0.17	-0.36	32	2.39	-1.01	70
Butte	48	-4	26	+10	0.09	-0.42	18	1.35	-1.08	56
Dillon	52	1	29	+8	0.02	-0.24	8	1.26	-0.23	85
Ennis	52	1	28	+5	0.25	-0.19	57	2.35	-0.19	93
Lakeview	40	-16	21	+9	1.53	+0.70	184	4.80	+0.23	105
W Yellowstone	38	-23	14	+2	1.47	-0.31	83	7.56	+0.49	107
Wisdom	45	-23	19	+6	0.67	+0.09	116	3.58	+0.75	127
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>										
Billings	64	-12	30	+7	0.64	-0.13	83	2.97	-0.48	86
Cooke City	40	-18	18	+6	1.45	-0.70	67	6.27	-1.76	78
Gardiner	47	2	28	+5	0.93	+0.58	266	5.49	+3.30	251
Hardin	66	-14	27	+5	0.79	+0.21	136	3.17	+0.23	108
Huntley	66	-12	26	+7	0.57	+0.00	100	3.17	+0.21	107
Hysham	64	-9	27	+8	1.20	+0.71	245	2.76	+0.03	101
Joliet	62	-11	27	+6	0.22	-0.48	31	2.55	-1.04	71
Livingston	56	-6	33	+9	0.21	-0.39	35	2.50	-0.60	81
Nye	57	-10	31	+3	1.01	+0.42	171	4.83	+1.31	137
Rapelje	61	-13	28	+5	0.35	-0.24	59	2.21	-0.87	72
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>										
Albion	58	-10	26	+12	0.31	+0.04	115	1.58	-0.61	72
Baker	57	-13	24	+9	0.27	-0.26	51	1.61	-1.18	58
Broadus	59	-10	28	+8	0.46	-0.01	98	1.93	-0.87	69
Ekalaka	53	-13	25	+7	0.82	+0.27	149	2.35	-1.15	67
Miles City	63	-9	26	+10	0.34	-0.14	71	1.51	-1.07	59
Plevna	61	-13	24	+10	0.34	-0.19	64	1.72	-1.07	62

Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.