



# Crop Weather Report

**Issue: 13-02**  
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Monthly: Nov-Mar

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For the Month Ending:  
February 24, 2013

## Weather Summary

The month of February brought a mix of warmer temperatures and snow showers across Montana. Average low temperatures were the lower 20s to mid 30s at most reporting stations. Neihart received the largest amount of precipitation for the month with 1.67 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.01 to 0.82 of an inch of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s to upper 50s, with the state-wide high temperature of 59 degrees recorded in Hamilton and Hysham. The coldest reported low of -25 degrees was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Cooke City and Plentywood with -24 degrees.

The weather outlook for March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup> is for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation east of the Continental Divide. West of the Divide can expect near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 30s to the mid 40s, with lows 10 degrees to the mid 20s.

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 55 percent compared with 47 percent last year. Subsoil moisture was 40 percent adequate and surplus compared to 48 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report of February 1, 2013, snow water content state-wide was 96 percent of average and 101 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 92 percent of average and 103 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 99 percent of average and 95 percent of last year.

## Livestock Report

Livestock grazing conditions were 67 percent open to difficult for the month of February, compared to 81 percent last year. Supplemental feeding is still ahead of last year at this time with both cattle and sheep at 98 percent being fed. Livestock birthing is well underway with 16 percent of calving and 8 percent of lambing complete, compared with 14 and 6 percent, respectively, last year.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>			
Open	45	45	63
Difficult	22	22	18
Closed	33	33	19
<b>Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>			
Cattle	98	97	91
Sheep	98	98	91
<b>Livestock Birthing</b>			
Calving Complete	16	3	14
Lambing Complete	8	1	6

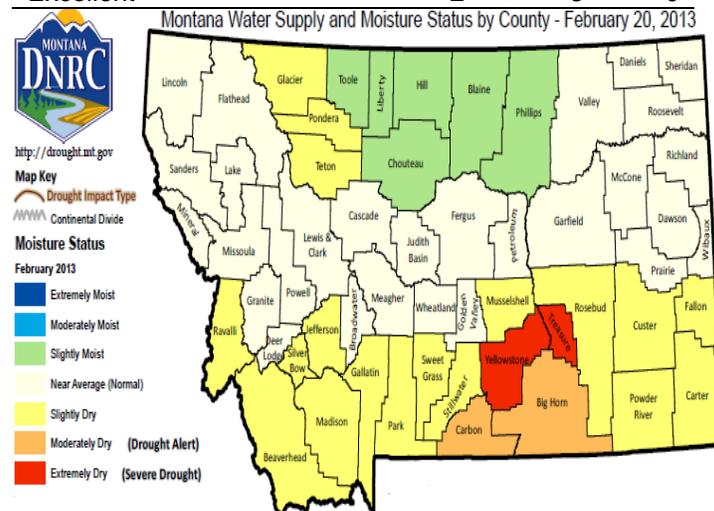
For the latest information from the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee please visit: <http://drought.mt.gov/>.

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	15	16	14
Short	30	22	39
Adequate	51	57	46
Surplus	4	5	1
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	25	27	14
Short	35	29	38
Adequate	39	43	44
Surplus	1	1	4

## Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is above last year with 38 percent good to excellent compared to 24 percent last year. Wind and freeze damage remain low with 95 percent none to light, compared with 65 percent last year. Freeze and Drought damage remains low at 7 percent, compared to 14 percent last year. Protectiveness of snow cover is above last year, despite warm weather with 18 percent good to excellent, compared with 2 percent last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat</b>			
Very Poor	3	2	2
Poor	7	7	10
Fair	52	50	64
Good	36	39	22
Excellent	2	2	2
<b>Winter Wheat - Wind Damage</b>			
None	65	76	46
Light	30	18	19
Moderate	4	5	32
Heavy	1	1	3
<b>Winter Wheat - Freeze and Drought Damage</b>			
None	69	74	55
Light	24	19	31
Moderate	6	6	13
Heavy	1	1	1
<b>Winter Wheat - Protectiveness of Snow Cover</b>			
Very Poor	17	14	69
Poor	36	20	23
Fair	29	49	6
Good	16	14	2
Excellent	2	3	0



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 02/24/2013**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation November			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
<b>NORTHWEST</b>										
Alberton	50	18	34	+6	0.26	-0.39	40	7.82	+3.16	168
Anaconda	46	3	29	+2	0.16	-0.22	42	4.45	+1.19	137
Clinton	46	15	32	+10	0.27	-0.70	28	6.58	-0.02	100
Corvallis	55	17	35	+5	0.27	-0.19	59	4.84	+1.36	139
Creston	48	23	34	+8	0.18	-0.85	17	6.75	+0.02	100
Deer Lodge	53	8	29	+2	0.11	-0.13	46	1.80	-0.10	95
Drummond	47	10	31	+6	0.17	-0.35	33	5.31	+1.64	145
Hamilton	59	18	35	+5	0.31	-0.43	42	5.69	+0.84	117
Kalispell	47	19	33	+7	0.20	-0.79	20	6.57	+0.03	100
Missoula	46	20	34	+6	0.24	-0.41	37	5.89	+1.23	126
Olney	45	7	28	+6	0.68	-1.09	38	10.77	+0.52	105
Polson	50	21	34	+5	0.12	-0.64	16	4.32	-0.94	82
St Ignatius	55	21	36	+6	0.28	-0.37	43	4.13	-0.78	84
Seeley Lake	45	4	29	+5	0.99	-0.46	68	11.00	+0.92	109
Sula	46	9	30	+5	0.30	-0.38	44	6.03	+1.08	122
Superior	54	19	35	+4	0.28	-0.70	29	8.22	+1.31	119
Swan Lake	45	17	31	+7	0.04	-2.03	2	7.42	-6.89	52
Thompson Falls	52	22	36	+3	0.40	-1.36	23	9.88	-1.58	86
West Glacier	47	18	32	+7	0.57	-1.34	30	16.28	+2.77	121
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>										
Chester	55	-1	29	+8	0.43	+0.21	195	3.91	+2.08	214
Chinook	52	-7	23	+4	0.07	-0.20	26	3.22	+0.79	133
Choteau	55	6	32	+5	0.28	+0.13	187	2.78	+1.40	201
Cut Bank	54	5	33	+11	0.22	-0.02	92	2.47	+0.64	135
Ft Assiniboine	53	-1	26	+5	0.52	+0.27	208	3.20	+0.72	129
Fort Benton	58	1	32	+5	0.09	-0.22	29	3.80	+1.09	140
Goldbutte	53	1	30	+7	0.36	+0.11	144	3.72	+1.39	160
Harlem	51	-5	25	+5	0.14	-0.14	50	3.71	+1.68	183
Havre	47	0	28	+7	0.46	+0.18	164	4.28	+1.96	184
Malta	46	2	26	+10	0.05	-0.19	21	3.55	+1.26	155
Rudyard	54	-2	28	+6	0.00	-0.14	0	3.74	+2.38	275
Shelby	52	6	31	+8	0.09	-0.16	36	3.06	+0.87	140
Turner	40	-5	22	+5	0.02	-0.12	14	2.77	+0.97	154
Valier	50	6	32	+7	0.18	-0.02	90	3.13	+1.38	179
<b>NORTHEAST</b>										
Bredette	39	-13	20	+2	0.04	-0.14	22	2.70	+0.84	145
Culbertson	44	-19	21	+3	0.11	-0.08	58	3.96	+1.84	187
Glasgow	46	-1	24	+6	0.10	-0.12	45	2.79	+0.76	137
Glendive	52	-4	30	+9	0.17	-0.08	68	3.22	+0.69	127
Jordan	56	0	31	+10	0.07	-0.21	25	2.85	+0.25	110
Nashua	44	-2	23	+2	0.03	-0.12	20	3.04	+1.23	168
Opheim	39	-13	19	+5	0.01	-0.18	5	8.37	+6.68	495
Plentywood	46	-24	18	+1	0.10	-0.14	42	3.50	+1.45	171
St Marie	40	-6	22	+4	0.01	-0.21	5	1.72	-0.31	85
Scobey	39	-5	22	+6	0.00	-0.10	0	2.32	+0.66	140
Sidney	42	-7	24	+4	0.07	-0.21	25	3.92	+1.12	140
Wolf Point	43	-6	22	+4	0.09	-0.12	43	2.37	+0.28	113
<b>CENTRAL</b>										
Cascade	50	-4	31	+4	0.33	+0.04	114	3.79	+1.11	141
Grass Range	56	2	31	+4	0.19	-0.05	79	4.09	+0.90	128
Great Falls	53	12	34	+9	0.42	-0.01	98	4.37	+1.08	133
Harlowton	56	3	27	+1	0.21	-0.10	68	3.09	+0.57	123
Helena	48	5	33	+8	0.31	+0.01	103	4.18	+1.77	173
Lewistown	45	0	27	+3	0.24	-0.24	50	3.32	-0.67	83
Martinsdale	47	4	30	+3	0.18	-0.06	75	3.23	+0.72	129
Neihart	48	6	29	+2	1.67	+1.13	309	6.90	+2.03	142
Rogers Pass	49	8	31	+5	0.30	-0.21	59	5.04	+1.13	129
Roundup	58	5	34	+5	0.04	-0.24	14	2.66	+0.14	106
Ryegate	58	1	28	+3	0.09	-0.16	36	2.92	+0.42	117
Stanford	51	2	30	+3	0.54	+0.14	135	3.73	+0.36	111
Townsend	54	7	32	+4	0.02	-0.17	11	1.60	-0.29	85
Valentine	57	-6	29	+7	0.03	-0.22	12	3.08	+0.47	118
Wht Sulphur Spr	46	-1	27	+3	0.00	-0.30	0	1.55	-1.10	58
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>										
Boulder	50	-1	31	+5	0.43	+0.19	179	2.43	+0.20	109
Bozeman	44	9	30	+4	0.13	-0.23	36	2.62	-1.12	70
Butte	46	-6	24	+4	0.13	-0.26	33	2.23	-0.60	79
Dillon	48	3	30	+3	0.06	-0.10	38	1.47	-0.16	90
Ennis	47	-4	29	+2	0.35	-0.02	95	3.33	+0.43	115
Lakeview	39	-5	22	+6	0.22	-0.56	28	4.43	-0.94	82
W Yellowstone	36	-25	17	+0	0.38	-1.15	25	9.07	-0.06	99
Wisdom	43	-10	20	+4	0.13	-0.30	30	4.70	+1.41	143
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>										
Billings	54	13	33	+5	0.30	-0.18	63	3.23	-0.72	82
Cooke City	37	-24	18	+1	0.78	-0.75	51	7.38	-2.34	76
Gardiner	42	0	28	-1	0.45	+0.20	180	2.99	+0.55	123
Hardin	55	1	31	+3	0.82	+0.52	273	4.57	+1.33	141
Huntley	57	0	31	+6	0.15	-0.25	38	2.35	-1.00	70
Hysham	59	10	33	+7	0.26	+0.00	100	2.61	-0.37	88
Joliet	47	-5	27	-1	0.43	-0.08	84	2.24	-1.88	54
Livingston	49	8	33	+4	0.53	+0.13	133	3.95	+0.44	113
Nye	48	8	32	+2	0.58	+0.10	121	3.96	-0.02	99
Rapelje	55	-1	31	+3	0.22	-0.24	48	1.71	-1.84	48
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>										
Albion	52	1	28	+8	0.12	-0.15	44	0.36	-2.10	15
Baker	50	-1	28	+7	0.17	-0.19	47	2.64	-0.50	84
Broadus	51	4	30	+4	0.08	-0.25	24	2.34	-0.79	75
Ekalaka	49	1	28	+5	0.24	-0.23	51	3.20	-0.77	81
Miles City	58	6	32	+9	0.01	-0.29	3	2.16	-0.72	75
Plevna	51	-1	29	+7	0.07	-0.29	19	3.03	-0.11	96

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