



Crop Weather Report

Issue: 13-03

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Released: March 25, 2013

Issued: Weekly: Apr-Oct
Monthly: Nov-Mar

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For the Month Ending:
March 24, 2013

Weather Summary

Montana was mostly dry with temperatures fluctuating between above and below average during the month of March. Average low temperatures were the mid teens to upper 30s at most reporting stations. Opheim received the largest amount of precipitation for the month with 2.03 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.05 to 1.82 inches of precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to lower 70s, with the state-wide high temperature of 72 degrees recorded in Huntley and Hysham. The coldest reported low of -15 degrees was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Opheim with -11 degrees.

The weather outlook for April 1st through April 7th is for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation east of the Continental Divide. West of the Divide can expect above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the lower 40s to the mid 50s, with lows in the upper teens to the lower 30s. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 61 percent compared with 61 percent last year. Subsoil moisture was 44 percent adequate and surplus compared to 57 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report of March 1, 2013, snow water content state-wide was 93 percent of average and 85 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 92 percent of average and 82 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 96 percent of average and 94 percent of last year.

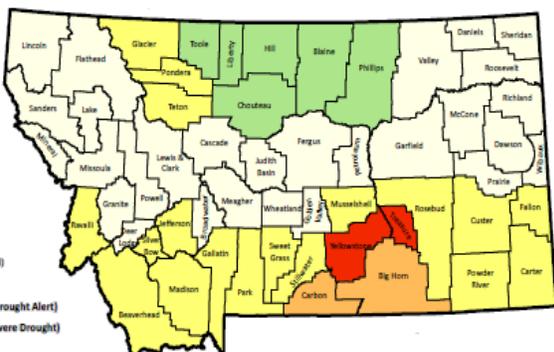
Livestock Report

Livestock birthing is well underway, despite some areas experiencing some difficulty due to below average temperatures, with 38 percent of calving and 24 percent of lambing complete, compared with 41 and 24 percent, respectively, last year.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Grazing			
Open	50	45	79
Difficult	23	22	6
Closed	27	33	15
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle and Calves	95	98	92
Sheep and Lambs	97	98	90
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Complete	38	16	41
Lambing Complete	24	8	24



<http://drought.mt.gov>
Map Key
Drought Impact Type
Continental Divide
Moisture Status
February 2013



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

Soil Moisture Table

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	16	15	6
Short	23	30	33
Adequate	57	51	57
Surplus	4	4	4
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	22	25	7
Short	34	35	36
Adequate	43	39	50
Surplus	1	1	7

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is above last year with 44 percent good to excellent compared to 28 percent last year. Wind damage remains low with 94 percent none to light, compared with 73 percent last year. Much of this year's winter wheat remains dormant but 26 percent was reported greening and 3 percent as green and growing. Winter kill appears to be low for winter wheat at this time and reports from the top growing area of the state are optimistic about the soil moisture in winter wheat fields.

Crop Condition Table

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	3	3	3
Poor	10	7	12
Fair	43	52	57
Good	40	36	25
Excellent	4	2	3
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage			
None	70	65	48
Light	24	30	25
Moderate	5	4	24
Heavy	1	1	3
Winter Wheat - Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	70	69	60
Light	22	24	31
Moderate	6	6	8
Heavy	2	1	1
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	25	17	59
Poor	24	36	33
Fair	27	29	6
Good	22	16	2
Excellent	2	2	0
Winter Wheat – Spring Stages			
Still Dormant	71	na	62
Greening	26	na	28
Green & Growing	3	na	10

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

*****Special Publication Notice*****

Starting with next Monday's publication, NASS will begin publishing weekly Crop Weather Reports each Monday through October for the 2013 crop season.

Weather Information for the month ending 03/24/2013

Station	Temperature				Precipitation March			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	61	17	37	+1	1.13	+0.48	174	9.02	+3.59	166
Anaconda	60	10	37	+5	0.20	-0.29	41	4.65	+0.82	121
Clinton	59	16	38	+9	0.32	-0.16	67	7.02	-0.18	98
Corvallis	70	16	38	+0	0.31	-0.17	65	5.15	+1.11	127
Creston	58	16	37	+4	0.73	-0.23	76	7.49	-0.36	95
Deer Lodge	65	8	33	-1	0.16	-0.21	43	1.96	-0.35	85
Drummond	60	13	38	+6	0.20	-0.14	59	5.51	+1.41	134
Hamilton	65	14	37	+1	0.61	-0.09	87	6.30	+0.63	111
Kalispell	57	15	36	+3	0.67	-0.23	74	7.25	-0.35	95
Missoula	60	19	38	+2	0.55	-0.20	73	6.46	+0.93	117
Olney	55	2	30	-2	1.82	+0.76	172	12.59	+1.04	109
Polson	60	15	37	+1	1.36	+0.60	179	5.68	-0.46	93
St Ignatius	65	15	38	+0	0.63	-0.25	72	4.80	-1.11	81
Seeley Lake	53	-2	32	+0	1.54	+0.53	152	12.58	+1.29	111
Sula	60	15	38	+6	0.43	-0.08	84	6.61	+1.03	118
Superior	66	16	38	-2	0.93	-0.01	99	9.30	+1.29	116
Swan Lake	55	11	35	+4	0.49	-0.65	43	7.91	-7.85	50
Thompson Falls	58	19	39	-2	1.47	+0.04	103	11.57	-1.60	88
West Glacier	52	9	35	+3	1.61	+0.39	132	19.23	+4.22	128
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	61	6	32	+2	0.34	+0.07	126	4.29	+2.15	200
Chinook	63	-1	27	-3	0.18	-0.24	43	3.40	+0.50	117
Choteau	61	1	33	-2	0.35	+0.11	146	3.13	+1.47	189
Cut Bank	59	5	31	+2	0.13	-0.28	32	2.60	+0.32	114
Ft Assiniboine	62	4	29	-3	0.23	-0.23	50	3.44	+0.42	114
Fort Benton	68	-1	33	-3	0.46	-0.18	72	4.26	+0.83	124
Goldbutte	60	-7	28	-4	0.28	-0.21	57	4.08	+1.18	141
Harlem	63	8	30	+0	0.10	-0.07	59	3.81	+1.57	170
Havre	63	1	31	-1	0.39	-0.14	74	4.68	+1.75	160
Malta	62	-4	27	-3	0.35	-0.10	78	3.90	+1.11	140
Rudyard	64	0	31	-1	0.47	+0.16	152	4.21	+2.50	246
Shelby	59	1	29	-3	0.36	-0.12	75	3.42	+0.67	124
Turner	45	-7	23	-7	0.65	+0.33	203	3.42	+1.26	158
Valier	57	6	33	+2	0.25	+0.03	114	3.42	+1.41	170
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	46	-8	17	-12	1.62	+1.29	491	4.32	+2.09	194
Culbertson	52	-8	21	-11	1.42	+1.07	406	5.38	+2.87	214
Glasgow	61	-2	25	-5	0.91	+0.58	276	3.70	+1.30	154
Glendive	67	3	30	-2	0.99	+0.59	247	4.21	+1.20	140
Jordan	68	-9	31	-2	0.74	+0.27	157	3.59	+0.44	114
Nashua	62	-3	25	-8	0.90	+0.65	360	3.94	+1.84	188
Opheim	44	-11	16	-11	2.03	+1.72	655	10.41	+8.37	510
Plentywood	51	-6	17	-12	1.59	+1.12	338	5.09	+2.50	197
St Marie	49	-6	21	-9	0.39	+0.06	118	2.11	-0.29	88
Scobey	46	-8	20	-6	0.76	+0.50	292	3.08	+1.12	157
Sidney	56	2	25	-6	1.09	+0.71	287	5.01	+1.75	154
Wolf Point	59	-2	23	-8	0.49	+0.13	136	2.86	+0.37	115
CENTRAL										
Cascade	63	8	38	+7	0.00	-0.34	0	3.91	+0.81	126
Grass Range	65	2	34	+0	0.43	-0.28	61	4.52	+0.55	114
Great Falls	68	5	36	+4	0.24	-0.49	33	4.62	+0.52	113
Harlowton	64	4	35	+3	0.04	-0.30	12	3.13	+0.19	106
Helena	62	11	37	+3	0.09	-0.39	19	4.27	+1.30	144
Lewistown	57	0	31	+0	0.37	-0.51	42	3.69	-1.27	74
Martinsdale	63	3	37	+6	0.19	-0.14	58	3.42	+0.50	117
Neihart	55	5	32	+1	0.89	-0.12	88	7.79	+1.79	130
Rogers Pass	61	9	35	+5	0.04	-0.53	7	5.44	+0.84	118
Roundup	67	6	36	+0	0.24	-0.21	53	2.90	-0.15	95
Ryegate	66	5	32	+1	0.09	-0.34	21	3.01	+0.04	101
Stanford	62	3	32	-2	0.40	-0.30	57	4.13	-0.02	100
Townsend	67	6	36	+0	0.09	-0.31	23	1.69	-0.64	73
Valentine	68	0	31	-2	0.34	-0.18	65	3.42	+0.22	107
Wht Sulphur Spr	57	4	34	+3	0.05	-0.58	8	1.60	-1.76	48
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	62	4	35	+4	0.09	-0.27	25	2.52	-0.13	95
Bozeman	59	9	34	-1	0.62	-0.42	60	5.03	-1.02	83
Butte	58	5	31	+2	0.23	-0.39	37	2.46	-1.07	70
Dillon	65	11	35	+2	0.14	-0.25	36	1.61	-0.45	78
Ennis	64	6	34	+1	0.20	-0.46	30	3.53	-0.11	97
Lakeview	56	-6	27	+5	0.14	-0.81	15	4.35	-2.15	67
W Yellowstone	53	-15	22	-2	1.34	+0.02	102	10.50	-0.19	98
Wisdom	60	-10	27	+3	0.26	-0.14	65	4.96	+1.19	132
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	69	6	38	+2	0.25	-0.57	30	3.48	-1.39	71
Cooke City	50	-10	25	+4	0.53	-0.62	46	7.92	-3.21	71
Gardiner	61	4	34	-1	0.11	-0.38	22	3.10	+0.09	103
Hardin	70	6	37	+0	1.32	+0.86	287	5.89	+2.14	157
Huntley	72	4	35	+0	0.13	-0.50	21	2.48	-1.58	61
Hysham	72	1	35	-1	0.63	+0.02	103	3.20	-0.47	87
Joliet	68	6	33	-3	0.03	-0.89	3	2.27	-2.89	44
Livingston	70	3	37	+2	0.30	-0.31	49	4.25	+0.05	101
Nye	67	5	38	+3	0.41	-0.35	54	4.37	-0.47	90
Rapelje	66	0	35	+2	0.03	-0.71	4	1.74	-2.63	40
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	68	0	31	+4	0.27	+0.08	142	0.51	-2.18	19
Baker	66	1	28	-3	0.68	+0.12	121	3.32	-0.46	88
Broadus	69	2	34	-2	0.38	-0.23	62	2.72	-1.10	71
Ekalaka	64	-4	29	-3	1.12	+0.57	204	4.35	-0.21	95
Miles City	70	3	34	+0	0.36	-0.02	95	2.52	-0.78	76
Plevna	66	-6	28	-3	0.82	+0.29	155	3.85	+0.10	103

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