

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – November 18, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 90 - to 110-percent of normal for the **southwest** region; 50- to 75-percent for the **western** region; 90- to 110-percent for the **northeastern** region; 80- to 120-percent for the **central** region; 80- to 110 percent for the **northcentral** region; 90- to 110-percent for the **southcentral** region; and 80- to 120-percent for the **southeast** region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in the Yellowstone, and lower Missouri River Basins are currently rated as *Normal to Above Normal* at this time. Flows in the Clark Fork River basin are *Normal to below Normal* with a few exceptions in the *Much Below Normal* category. Flows in the upper Missouri River basin range from *Normal* to *Below Normal* according to the USGS as of November 19, 2015: <u>http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map</u>

According to the November 16 USDA NASS, Crop Progress and Condition Report Week Ending November 15, 2015: "Unseasonably warmer temperatures followed much colder weather across the State of Montana and many areas experienced scattered precipitation as well. High temperatures ranged from the lower 40s to lower 70s and low temperatures ranged from -3 to the lower 30s. Precipitation was hit or miss across the State but many stations received measurable precipitation, with the highest recorded this week in Yaak with 1.86 inches of moisture.

Winter wheat emergence is at 96 percent, which is behind last year's 100 percent but ahead of the 5-year average of 89 percent. Winter wheat condition is rated 73 percent good to excellent, compared with 70 percent last year and the 5-year average of 52 percent. Pasture and range conditions were unchanged from the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent, which remains well behind last year's 44 percent and the 5-year average of 36 percent.

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow,

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity. For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



Groundwater