



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Most of the State received good moisture after a late week storm rolled through the high country and northeastern counties, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on April 25, drought conditions were present across just under 8 percent of the State, up from last week and down from 44 percent a year ago. Just over 36 percent of the State is under abnormally dry conditions, down from almost 40 percent last week. Conditions within the southeastern plains were downgraded to moderate drought after multiple weeks with limited moisture. In total, almost 8 percent of the State is rated under moderate drought conditions up from 3 percent last week. Moisture in northwestern counties was variable, with some areas receiving more than an inch and others remaining dry last week. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 94 percent of median snowfall. Reporters noted predation from wolves continued, with more confirmed livestock losses. Northeastern counties received above average moisture last week, with several counties having received more than two inches of moisture. Cutworms were reported in the winter wheat crop and conditions across the growing area are varied. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crops continued ahead of normal, while potato planting begun in the area last week. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting continued, and planting of the potato crop started last week. Reporters noted that warm temperatures aided alfalfa growth and condition. A few southwestern counties received measurable moisture last week. Southeastern counties remained primarily dry last week, with Pueblo County receiving the most measurable moisture. As of April 29, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 90 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 74 and 66 percent, respectively.

Planting of the barley crop caught up with the 5-year average last week, with 69 percent of the crop planted. Emergence of the barley crop continued among primarily warm conditions, with 37 percent of the crop emerged, compared to the 5-year average of 26 percent. Eight percent of the corn crop was reported planted last week. Potato planting started across the State last week, with six percent of acres planted in the San Luis Valley and 15 percent reported planted across the rest of the State. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 36 percent average, and 63 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 45 percent average, and 54 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	69	45	55	69
Emerged.....	37	15	14	26
Corn				
Planted	8	1	5	12
Onions				
Planted	48	33	21	28
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	6	NA	7	14
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	15	--	21	23
Sugarbeets				
Planted	49	28	12	26
Emerged.....	5	--	--	2
Winter wheat				
Pastured.....	4	7	7	NA
Jointing.....	35	27	24	38
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	90	80	90	90
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambded.....	77	70	94	94

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.1	5.9	5.1	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	20	10	19
Short	31	32	25	27
Adequate.....	39	44	63	52
Surplus.....	5	4	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	15	11	19
Short	23	27	39	31
Adequate.....	60	54	48	50
Surplus.....	2	4	2	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	1	1	3	2
Poor.....	5	2	11	6
Fair	16	12	27	25
Good	71	81	50	59
Excellent.....	7	4	9	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	8	4	10	15
Poor.....	12	13	25	20
Fair	27	25	32	29
Good	48	50	32	34
Excellent.....	5	8	1	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	10	5	10	13
Poor.....	13	11	27	19
Fair	31	33	35	31
Good	44	46	24	32
Excellent.....	2	5	4	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	3	1	1
Poor.....	5	6	12	7
Fair	30	21	35	25
Good	50	57	51	60
Excellent.....	13	13	1	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero