



Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 150969, Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone 1-800-392-3202 · 1-800-643-6885
e-mail: nass-co@nass.usda.gov

To access USDA-NASS reports <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

Released: September 5, 2006

Vol. 43 No. 26

Agricultural Summary: Isolated thunderstorms were again reported across Eastern Colorado last week with temperatures reported at or slightly below average for the state. Normal August weather patterns allowed farmers 6 days in the field to continue fieldwork and other operations. Overcast days and cooler temperatures continue to slow crop maturity progress and harvesting. Soil moisture increased as a result of much-needed precipitation.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	12	29	55	4
Last Week	17	28	52	3
Last Year	9	28	61	2

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	30	42	27	1
Last Week	35	41	23	1
Last Year	20	40	38	2

Small Grains: Spring wheat was 60 percent harvested while spring barley was 75 percent harvested by week's end. Reporters are indicating that color and quality of malting barley is poor due to elevated moisture levels. Some spring wheat and barley is sprouting in the head.

Row Crops: The corn crop has reached 79 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 39 percent of the crop was or beyond the dent stage, with 10 percent at or beyond the mature stage. Roughly 22 percent of corn for silage has been harvested. The corn crop currently is rated in mostly good to fair condition. The sorghum crop reached 90 percent at or beyond the headed stage, 38 percent at or beyond the turning color stage, with 8 percent at or beyond the mature stage by week's end. The crop is rated in mostly good condition. Summer potatoes were 40 percent harvested by week's end and are currently rated in good to excellent condition. The dry onion crop

reached 39 percent harvested by week's end and is currently rated in good condition. The sugarbeet crop is rated in mostly good to fair condition. Fall potatoes are progressing nicely under heavy irrigation and are rated in good to fair condition, however elevated levels of precipitation have producers keeping a close eye on mold and other diseases. Dry beans were 22 percent at or beyond the cut stage with 5 percent harvested by week's end. Dry beans were rated in mostly good condition. Sunflowers are rated in good to fair condition.

ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 3, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	4	14	22	44	16
Sorghum	1	11	28	59	1

Hay: Producers continue to cut alfalfa with 95 percent of the crop at or beyond the second cutting and 40 percent at or beyond the third cutting. The crop is currently rated in good to fair condition.

Pasture and Range: Overall, pasture and range feed conditions improved due to the seasonal temperatures and rainfall. Reports indicate that weed growth is becoming a problem for hay production and grazing pastures.

Livestock: Death losses for cattle and sheep were average for the week. Producers continue to feed supplements due to the lack of grazable range and pastures. Many producers are trying to secure hay for the upcoming winter.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 3, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2006	17	25	35	20	3
Prev. Year - 2005	10	25	39	23	3
5-Year Avg.	21	23	31	22	3

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending September 3, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Spring Wheat				
Harvested	60	40	59	76
Spring Barley				
Harvested	75	60	73	88
Corn				
Dough	79	67	60	77
Dent	39	25	32	39
Mature	10	1	5	6
Corn Silage				
Harvested	22	15	14	20
Sorghum				
Headed	90	83	95	89
Turning color	38	32	31	32
Mature	8	6	4	6
Alfalfa				
2 nd cutting	95	91	98	97
3 rd cutting	40	31	41	43
Dry Beans				
Cut	22	6	14	20
Harvested	5	0	0	8
Summer Potatoes				
Harvested	40	30	45	48
Dry Onions				
Harvest	39	32	38	44

COLORADO CROP CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sunflower	3	14	27	48	8
Alfalfa hay	10	16	30	37	7
Dry Onions	3	4	23	51	19
Sugarbeets	6	13	23	46	12
Summer Potatoes	1	8	8	43	40
Fall Potatoes	0	5	34	42	19
Dry Beans	12	5	23	55	5

^{1/} Crop condition ratings pertain to emerged plants early in the growing season through plants remaining to be harvested late in the season.