



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 18, 2006

Vol. 43 No. 28

Agricultural Summary: Colorado experienced cooler temperatures last week with light snow reported in the north-central mountains. Normal September weather patterns allowed farmers 6.1 days in the field to continue fieldwork and other operations. Dry sunny days have aided harvest of several crops throughout the state. However, isolated areas of frost were reported last week. Subsoil moisture increased slightly as a result from a late week storms.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	10	25	63	2
Last Week	14	28	56	2
Last Year	12	35	53	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	26	40	33	1
Last Week	26	41	32	1
Last Year	19	46	34	1

Small Grains: Spring wheat was 93 percent harvested while spring barley harvest reached completion by week's end. Reporters continue to indicate poor color and quality of malting barley in the San Luis Valley due to elevated moisture levels. Winter wheat producers continue to plant with 30 percent now seeded. Reporters are indicating the winter wheat seeding is progressing nicely in areas that have good moisture levels.

Row Crops: The corn crop has reached 99 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 85 percent of the crop was at beyond the dent stage, 34 percent at or beyond the mature stage, with 3 percent harvested. Roughly 63 percent of corn for silage has been harvested. The corn crop currently is rated in mostly good to fair condition. The sorghum crop reached 100 percent at or beyond the headed stage, 58 percent at or beyond the turning color stage, 29 percent at or beyond the mature stage, with 1 percent harvested by week's end. The crop is rated in mostly good condition. Summer potatoes were 66 percent harvested by week's end and are currently rated in good to excellent condition. Producers continued to harvest fall potatoes last week with 20 percent harvest by

week's end. While fall potatoes are rated in good to fair condition, producers continue to keep a close eye on diseases. The dry onion crop reached 56 percent harvested by week's end and is currently rated in good to fair condition. The sugarbeet crop is rated in good to fair condition. Dry beans were 63 percent at or beyond the cut stage with 36 percent harvested by week's end. Dry beans were rated in mostly good condition. Sunflowers are rated in mostly good to fair condition.

ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 17, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	5	12	22	44	17
Sorghum	1	9	28	60	2

Hay: Producers continue to cut alfalfa with 79 percent at or beyond the third cutting and 20 percent at or beyond the fourth cutting. The crop is currently rated in good to fair condition.

Pasture and Range: Overall, pasture and range feed conditions held steady thanks to the seasonal temperatures and rainfall. Reports indicate that grasses are beginning to mature and turn color. Weed growth has slowed thanks to the cooler temperatures.

Livestock: Death losses for cattle and sheep were average for the week. Producers are reporting livestock losses from increased rains during the season when cattle were foraging at the highest elevation during the year. Producers continue to feed supplements due to the lack of grazable range and pastures. Many producers are still trying to secure hay for the upcoming winter.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 17, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2006	14	22	42	20	2
Prev. Year - 2005	11	26	37	23	3
5-Year Avg.	18	23	32	25	2

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending September 17, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	30	8	47	43
Spring Wheat				
Harvested	93	86	90	94
Spring Barley				
Harvested	100	92	94	98
Corn				
Dough	99	85	95	97
Dent	85	60	67	78
Mature	34	17	28	29
Harvested	3	0	1	1
Corn Silage				
Harvested	63	40	51	54
Sorghum				
Headed	100	95	100	98
Turning color	58	44	59	60
Mature	29	10	26	22
Harvested	1	0	1	0
Alfalfa				
2 nd cutting	100	99	100	100
3 rd cutting	79	57	70	68
4 th cutting	20	10	12	11
Dry Beans				
Cut	63	42	57	59
Harvested	36	13	29	33
Fall Potatoes				
Harvested	20	7	26	22
Summer Potatoes				
Harvested	66	50	66	70
Dry Onions				
Harvest	56	46	66	65

COLORADO CROP CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sunflower	3	15	26	47	9
Alfalfa hay	10	15	32	36	7
Dry Onions	4	5	28	44	19
Sugarbeets	7	14	25	42	12
Summer Potatoes	2	5	9	43	41
Fall Potatoes	0	5	34	42	19
Dry Beans	2	4	22	66	6

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

USDA NASS
Colorado Field Office

Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension Service

Colorado Department
of Agriculture