



Colorado Crop Progress

NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Agricultural Summary: Last week Colorado experienced scattered showers on the Eastern Plains, bringing some much needed moisture to small grain and row crops. The State, overall, received below average precipitation with above average temperatures. Early and continued warm temperatures have pushed wheat and grass growth ahead of normal. The San Luis Valley reported that due to extreme dry conditions there is the potential for prevented planting claims. Overall, the mountain snowpack is 28 percent of average raising concerns about the availability of irrigation water this growing season. Farmers were allowed 6.0 days in the field for spring operations.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	7	26	64	3
Last Week	13	37	50	0
Last Year	29	32	35	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	12	34	54	0
Last Week	14	42	44	0
Last Year	30	36	31	3

Small Grains: Winter wheat progress increased to 67 percent jointed and 3 percent headed. The crop was rated in mostly good to fair condition. The winter wheat reported being pastured remained at 1 percent. Spring barley was 69 percent seeded with 40 percent emerged by the end of the week compared with the 5-year average of 66 percent and 31 percent, respectively. Spring wheat was reported 68 percent seeded, 17 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average, with 22 percent emerged at week's end.

Row Crops: Corn progress increased to 22 percent planted with 2 percent emerged. Onion growers reported 92 percent of the acreage planted, with the crop rated in mostly good condition. Summer potato plantings increased to 55 percent last week with 13 percent

emerged. The planting of fall potatoes started last week with 5 percent planted. Sugarbeet planting reached 62 percent planted with 10 percent up to stand. Producers started planting sorghum and dry beans last week with 2 percent and 1 percent planted, respectively.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending April 29, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat					
This Week	2	13	33	46	6
Last Year	18	29	34	18	1

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range feed conditions improved slightly last week to mostly fair to good condition across the State, as a result of the limited moisture. Twenty-eight percent was rated good compared with 22 percent the previous week.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending April 29, 2012

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2012	10	23	39	28	0
Prev. Year - 2011	14	27	36	19	4
5-Year Avg.	6	22	37	32	3

Livestock: Eighty-seven percent of cows have calved since January 1st while 85 percent of the ewes have lambled during the same time frame. Livestock condition remains in mostly good condition. Death losses for cattle and sheep were average. Stored feed supplies were rated average to short for this time of year.

Spring 2012 Calving and Lambing

	2012	5-Yr Avg.
Cows Calved since Jan 1	87	87
Ewes Lambled since Jan 1	85	86

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending April 29, 2012

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Corn				
Planted	22	10	16	18
Emerged	2	1	-	1
Dry Beans				
Planted	1	N/A	-	-
Dry Onions				
Planted	92	88	81	83
Fall Potatoes				
Planted	5	-	-	1
Sorghum				
Planted	2	-	-	1
Spring Barley				
Seeded	69	60	66	66
Emerged	40	36	27	31
Spring Wheat				
Seeded	68	57	55	51
Emerged	22	17	12	19
Sugarbeets				
Planted	62	45	31	50
Up to Stand	10	2	-	2
Summer Potatoes				
Planted	55	50	27	28
Emerged	13	3	-	-
Winter Wheat				
Pastured	1	1	4	4
Jointed	67	52	44	50
Headed	3	-	-	2

- Represents zero.

N/A Not available.

COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS ^{1/}

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Dry Onions	0	0	15	84	1
Livestock	0	2	20	73	5

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