



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 22, 2014

Vol. 51 No. 28

Agricultural Summary: Warm, relatively dry conditions were experienced throughout the vast majority of Colorado, spurring crop development and activity in fields. Precipitation was concentrated primarily west of the Front Range as isolated and sporadic rain events occurred in the eastern districts. Reporters in the northeast noted some quality issues with corn for silage as a result of an early freeze. Statewide, farmers were allowed 6.8 days in the field for operations.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	8	34	54	4
Last Week	8	31	53	8
Last Year	7	22	63	8

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	17	32	50	1
Last Week	17	32	50	1
Last Year	24	34	41	1

Small Grains: Harvest activities for barley were virtually complete by week's end. Seventy-five percent of the state's spring wheat crop has been harvested, behind 99 percent last year and 82 percent on average. Seeding of winter wheat continued at a pace similar to the average, ending the week with 42 percent complete. Ten percent was emerged, compared with 8 percent last year and on average.

Row Crops: Corn was 90 percent dented, up from 76 percent previously. Sixteen percent of the crop was mature, behind 29 percent last year and the average of 39 percent. Sixty-nine percent of the corn crop intended for silage has been harvested, compared with 74 percent last year and 68 percent on average. Dry bean cuttings gained 15 percentage points of progress over the past week, ending with 45 percent complete by week's end. Dry beans were 22 percent harvested, behind 38 percent a year ago and the average of 36 percent. Onions were 44 percent harvested, up from 24 percent the week prior. This is behind the average of 57 percent. Twenty-two percent of potatoes inside the San Luis Valley were

harvested as of last week, behind 30 percent last year and 35 percent on average. Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley were 79 percent harvested, compared with 90 percent last year and the average of 71 percent. Sixty-eight percent of the sorghum crop was coloring, behind 83 percent last year and 89 percent on average. Maturity of sorghum was estimated at 34 percent as of last week, ahead of 12 percent last year and the average of 29 percent. Sorghum harvest activities progressed modestly, with 3 percent complete by week's end. Fifteen percent of the sugarbeet crop was harvested as of last week, ahead of 5 percent last year and 7 percent on average.

SMALL GRAIN AND ROW CROP CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 21, 2014

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn					
This Week	2	5	26	51	16
Last Year	12	15	27	37	9

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range conditions were rated 65 percent fair to good across the State. Last year, 55 percent was rated fair to good while 54 percent is fair to good on average. The third and fourth cuttings of alfalfa hay were estimated at 79 and 20 percent complete, respectively. On average, the third and fourth cuttings are 77 and 18 percent complete, respectively.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week ending September 21, 2014

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture & Range-2014	6	21	26	39	8
Prev. Year - 2013	17	26	30	25	2
5-Year Avg.	20	22	29	25	4

Livestock: Death losses for cattle and sheep remained mostly average to light. Stored feed supplies were rated 5 percent very short, 12 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Last week's supplies were rated 5 percent very short, 12 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus.

COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

Development Ratings for Week Ending September 21, 2014

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
Alfalfa				
3 rd Cutting	79	67	79	77
4 th Cutting	20	9	14	18
Corn				
Dented	90	76	92	90
Mature	16	10	29	39
Corn Silage				
Harvested	69	42	74	68
Dry Beans				
Cut	45	30	61	64
Harvested	22	11	38	36
Onions				
Harvested	44	24	43	57
Potatoes				
Inside SLV				
Harvested	22	15	30	35
Outside SLV				
Harvested	79	60	90	71
Sorghum				
Turning Color	68	57	83	89
Mature	34	22	12	29
Harvested	3	2	2	3
Spring Barley				
Harvested	97	89	99	98
Spring Wheat				
Harvested	75	69	99	82
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	15	5	5	7
Winter Wheat				
Planted	42	20	33	41
Emerged	10	2	8	8

- Represents zero.

N/A Not available.

COLORADO CONDITION RATINGS 1/

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	3	12	24	44	17
Dry Beans	0	1	41	42	16
Livestock	0	1	19	66	14
Onions	0	1	16	64	19
Potatoes Inside SLV	6	12	25	47	10
Sorghum	3	15	52	29	1
Sugarbeets	1	4	18	55	22
Sunflowers	0	15	36	41	8

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