



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Spring fieldwork was well underway last week across the state, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Isolated moisture was received in areas, but not enough to provide any real relief from drought conditions. Producers statewide were noted to be fertilizing and spraying for weeds where conditions allowed. Reporters in northwestern counties noted snowpack remained low in areas, which is concerning for summer water supplies. A reporter noted that snow cover over rangeland was receding earlier than producers preferred. In northeastern counties, needed moisture was received in areas, reportedly delaying fieldwork. Localities that did not receive moisture or had less were noted to remain dry and in need of precipitation. Reporters in east central and southeastern counties noted last week was mostly dry, although some areas received isolated showers. Prolonged drought conditions continued to degrade dryland crop and pasture conditions. Coupled with high winds, fire danger was elevated and some tilled ground was noted to blow. In southwestern counties, producers started to cull livestock due to continued poor range condition and expected shortage of water availability. High winds erased any benefit from received moisture. In the San Luis Valley, welcome wet snow earlier in the week prevented producers from getting in the field, but preparation for small grains planting continued later in the week. As of March 29, 2018, snowpack in Colorado was 72 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 53 and 54 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 21 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 41 percent average and 59 percent light. Cattle death loss was 74 percent average and 26 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	3	1	8	10
Onions				
Planted	1	--	8	14
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	1	--	NA	NA
Spring wheat				
Planted	8	1	9	8
Winter wheat				
Pastured.....	7	9	13	9
Jointed.....	1	--	2	2
Sugarbeets				
Planted	4	--	4	5
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	57	39	59	63
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambd	61	37	38	47

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.....	5.7	6.3	3.6	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	24	5	13
Short.....	37	39	19	28
Adequate.....	37	37	72	57
Surplus.....	1	--	4	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	14	8	20
Short.....	24	29	29	31
Adequate.....	54	57	62	48
Surplus.....	1	--	1	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	20	15	2	17
Poor.....	20	16	27	26
Fair.....	34	37	32	30
Good.....	24	30	35	25
Excellent.....	2	2	4	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	5	5	10
Poor.....	17	16	21	17
Fair.....	39	40	35	34
Good.....	31	31	32	34
Excellent.....	8	8	7	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	1	1	3	3
Fair.....	22	24	18	25
Good.....	71	68	70	65
Excellent.....	6	7	9	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero