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 MAY 13, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Hot and dry conditions accelerated fieldwork and planting activities last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation late last week was mostly confined to northern and some eastern counties. Northeastern county reporters observed damaging hail and isolated heavy rainfall, although moisture continued to improve dryland crop and rangeland conditions. In east central counties, those who haven't received moisture noted the winter wheat was severely stressed. High winds were also reported. Southwestern counties missed out on precipitation last week, and reporters noted conditions worsened. In Archuleta and La Plata counties, irrigation water was already shut off with reports of crop losses. Livestock producers continued to sell off due to drought. High winds and extreme fire danger were also reported. In the San Luis Valley, no moisture was received and pastures were noted to be slow-growing. Hay supplies continued to shorten and producers were feeding longer than expected. Fall potato planting really picked up last week and the majority of small grains planting was complete. In southeastern counties, wheat aphid infestations were reported to be severe in areas, with producers swathing some wheat for forage in response. Statewide, calving and lambing were mostly complete. As of May 14, 2018, snowpack in Colorado was 46 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 7 and 1 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 9 percent very short, 20 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 51 percent average and 49 percent light. Cattle death loss was 81 percent average and 19 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted	95	93	90	91
Emerged	81	65	76	64
Corn				
Planted	41	16	50	51
Emerged	7	1	14	11
Dry edible beans				
Planted	1	NA	4	4
Onions				
Planted	96	90	78	90
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	81	46	48	43
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	70	60	79	79
Emerged	11	3	27	23
Spring wheat				
Planted	84	74	74	75
Emerged	59	35	50	45
Sugarbeets				
Planted	90	75	86	82
Emerged	39	18	42	38
Winter wheat				
Jointed	72	46	86	69
Headed	11	1	18	16
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	94	93	94	97
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	99	98	92	96

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	6.1	4.8	4.1	4.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	19	18	2	8
Short	25	24	6	19
Adequate	55	57	84	66
Surplus	1	1	8	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	12	11	4	14
Short	26	24	15	25
Adequate	62	64	80	58
Surplus	--	1	1	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	8	7	--	NA
Poor	9	9	4	NA
Fair	27	29	27	NA
Good	46	47	60	NA
Excellent	10	8	9	NA
Barley				
Very poor	1	NA	--	1
Poor	3	NA	--	1
Fair	23	NA	13	25
Good	52	NA	54	54
Excellent	21	NA	33	19
Pasture and range				
Very poor	9	14	1	10
Poor	20	24	3	16
Fair	33	31	28	30
Good	38	30	58	38
Excellent	--	1	10	6
Winter wheat				
Very poor	6	5	6	13
Poor	12	12	14	15
Fair	29	30	35	30
Good	49	48	35	35
Excellent	4	5	10	7
Livestock				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	5	3	2	3
Fair	16	13	16	21
Good	71	79	74	68
Excellent	8	5	8	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero