



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 OCTOBER 7, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Widespread moisture received across the state last week brought welcome relief to areas suffering from drought but delayed fieldwork, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In northwestern counties, a reporter noted much needed rain was received last week that helped alleviate dry conditions, at least for the short term. In northeastern counties, a reporter commented substantial rain in areas delayed winter wheat planting but created more favorable conditions for germination of wheat that was previously seeded into dry soil. Rain also delayed harvest activities. A reporter noted producers were still waiting for corn and other crops to dry down before beginning harvest. Livestock producers were noted as seeking alternative feed sources due to poor pasture conditions and continued to sell and wean calves. In east central counties, moisture received over the weekend aided winter wheat condition and emergence. A reporter noted corn harvest continued around precipitation events and producers expected to start sorghum harvest soon. Southwestern counties also received beneficial moisture last week that provided short term relief, but drought conditions persisted. In the San Luis Valley, moisture was sporadic and potato harvest made quick progress. Third cutting alfalfa harvest was virtually complete. In southeastern counties, received moisture and heavy dew slowed harvest. A reporter in Otero county noted that corn in poor condition due to lack of adequate irrigation water during the year was cut for silage instead of grain. Statewide, corn was rated 73 percent good to excellent, compared with 62 percent rated good to excellent last year. Stored feed supplies were rated 10 percent very short, 20 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 64 percent average and 36 percent light. Cattle death loss was 3 percent heavy, 72 percent average, and 25 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	96	94	93	94
4 th cutting harvested	52	45	34	43
Corn				
Mature	73	59	57	70
Harvested for grain	20	11	8	14
Dry edible beans				
Cut	97	92	86	87
Harvested	88	72	68	62
Onions				
Harvested	95	94	83	76
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	78	54	68	66
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	82	72	62	NA
Sorghum				
Mature	53	43	44	54
Harvested	13	9	2	10
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	14	9	11	25
Winter wheat				
Planted	78	67	68	79
Emerged	56	39	37	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.....	5.8	6.6	4.6	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	12	18	1	6
Short	33	41	13	27
Adequate	54	41	80	64
Surplus.....	1	--	6	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	19	2	11
Short	28	33	20	30
Adequate	57	47	75	58
Surplus.....	1	1	3	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	9	10	3	NA
Poor.....	16	19	11	NA
Fair.....	29	30	23	NA
Good	39	33	57	NA
Excellent	7	8	6	NA
Corn				
Very poor	1	2	2	3
Poor.....	5	11	10	7
Fair.....	21	19	26	26
Good	69	59	45	50
Excellent	4	9	17	14
Pasture and range				
Very poor	31	28	2	5
Poor.....	31	29	14	16
Fair.....	19	17	25	29
Good	17	23	45	41
Excellent	2	3	14	9
Sorghum				
Very poor	4	6	6	7
Poor.....	6	8	9	15
Fair.....	26	26	19	32
Good	60	55	53	41
Excellent	4	5	13	5
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	1	2	1
Poor.....	5	9	5	3
Fair.....	18	34	18	17
Good	53	45	59	64
Excellent	23	11	16	15
Sunflowers				
Very poor	--	1	1	6
Poor.....	2	4	5	10
Fair.....	27	29	21	28
Good	67	62	55	46
Excellent	4	4	18	10
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	2	4	1	2
Fair.....	16	25	25	18
Good	71	62	68	70
Excellent	9	7	6	10

NA – not available

(--) – zero