



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2020

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 26, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Spring planting progress made significant gains last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Northeastern counties received isolated moisture and warmer temperatures allowed fieldwork to progress. Reports noted corn and sugarbeet planting actively began in several localities last week. Livestock producers began to turn stock out to summer pasture, but concerns were present regarding overall lack of soil moisture. East central counties also received precipitation last week, but reported temperatures were very warm. Warm weather and dry conditions overall were concerning for winter wheat and rangeland conditions. In western slope counties, fruit growers were still assessing the extent of damage to crops due to a late hard freeze experienced on April 13th. The San Luis Valley received scattered moisture last week but conditions remained dry. Conditions were favorable for fieldwork and planting of potatoes was in full swing. Barley planting continued and emergence was noted as good thus far. Producers also started running their irrigation sprinklers. In southeastern counties, some localities received isolated but welcome moisture. Corn planting began but ground temperatures were still notably cold. Irrigation water supplies were reduced due to prior early watering of fields to help boost soil moisture. Rangeland conditions continued to deteriorate and livestock producers were still providing winter feed since grass growth is limited. Feed supplies shortened and producers were considering selling stock. Moisture is desperately needed in the area going forward. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, all southern counties in Colorado were experiencing severe drought (D2). As of April 24, 2020, snowpack in Colorado was 106 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 91 percent and 76 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 12 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 48 percent average and 52 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	77	58	72	60
Emerged	28	4	21	20
Corn				
Planted	17	4	6	9
Onions				
Planted	25	16	36	61
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	21	--	6	NA
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	13	5	26	46
Sugarbeets				
Planted	18	9	51	49
Winter wheat				
Pastured	7	6	24	NA
Jointed	41	25	31	40
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	90	87	86	88
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	94	89	92	86

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.....	6.0	4.3	5.9	4.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	14	--	6
Short.....	31	31	7	16
Adequate.....	52	54	89	72
Surplus.....	1	1	4	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	13	12	--	8
Short.....	21	21	7	21
Adequate.....	65	66	93	69
Surplus.....	1	1	--	2

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.....	--	1	--	NA
Poor.....	3	3	2	NA
Fair.....	21	21	8	NA
Good.....	70	68	82	NA
Excellent.....	6	7	8	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	6	6	2	7
Poor.....	12	12	8	17
Fair.....	28	28	26	34
Good.....	52	52	58	38
Excellent.....	2	2	6	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	15	15	--	3
Poor.....	19	16	2	10
Fair.....	29	27	22	29
Good.....	35	40	60	49
Excellent.....	2	2	16	9
Livestock				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	--
Poor.....	5	4	5	2
Fair.....	21	20	20	18
Good.....	65	66	67	72
Excellent.....	9	9	8	8

NA – not available

(--)- zero