



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 SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Overall, conditions were once again warm and dry in the state during the past week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Minor amounts of precipitation were received in some areas, but on average, there were seven days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending September 27, 2020. In northeastern counties, corn silage harvest continued at a rapid pace. Sugarbeet harvest made a significant increase while proso millet and sorghum harvest showed little increase from last week. Farmers actively planted wheat but remained concerned over the dry conditions. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued with the worsening of range conditions. Harvest continued in east central counties, although fewer acres were being harvested because of the drought. Ranchers faced the dilemma of poor winter forage as dry conditions continued. There was no improvement in drought conditions in the southwestern portion of the state. In the San Luis Valley, alfalfa harvest continued while the potato harvest progressed ahead of the average with the cooperative weather. Corn harvest began in southeastern counties as corn was drying down quickly with the above average temperatures and wind. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 8 percent very short, 36 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 74 percent average and 26 percent light. Cattle death loss was 89 percent average and 11 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	85	76	88	89
4 th cutting harvested	28	22	39	35
Corn				
Dented	97	93	88	93
Mature	55	42	36	46
Harvested for grain	13	5	10	7
Harvested for silage	85	68	69	80
Dry edible beans				
Cut	59	56	56	69
Harvested	13	12	29	41
Onions				
Harvested	60	53	55	69
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	59	30	50	41
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	69	67	64	69
Proso Millet				
Harvested	69	66	68	NA
Sorghum				
Turning color	92	87	92	93
Mature	53	47	36	36
Harvested	16	15	2	3
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	35	21	13	11
Winter wheat				
Planted	66	45	60	57
Emerged	19	13	33	27

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.....	7.0	6.9	6.8	6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	33	25	7	9
Short	44	43	38	33
Adequate	22	31	54	55
Surplus.....	1	1	1	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	33	32	5	8
Short	46	43	26	29
Adequate	21	25	67	62
Surplus.....	--	--	2	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)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	7	7	3	3
Poor.....	17	17	4	8
Fair.....	22	22	10	22
Good	50	49	72	56
Excellent	4	5	11	11
Corn				
Very poor	10	16	--	1
Poor.....	25	19	3	6
Fair.....	29	26	18	21
Good	32	34	66	59
Excellent	4	5	13	13
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	4	1	--	NA
Poor.....	18	27	5	NA
Fair.....	38	36	47	NA
Good	38	35	43	NA
Excellent	2	1	5	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	19	21	2	7
Poor.....	38	30	6	14
Fair.....	30	32	29	26
Good	13	17	58	45
Excellent	--	--	5	8
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	4	3	--	--
Poor.....	7	7	6	5
Fair.....	20	18	33	19
Good	51	53	43	55
Excellent	18	19	18	21
Sorghum				
Very poor	16	11	1	2
Poor.....	22	21	3	7
Fair.....	45	48	23	25
Good	14	17	61	59
Excellent	3	3	12	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	5	3	--	--
Poor.....	10	8	--	3
Fair.....	33	27	11	16
Good	44	53	83	67
Excellent	8	9	6	14
Sunflowers				
Very poor	8	11	--	--
Poor.....	24	25	--	4
Fair.....	48	39	25	25
Good	19	23	59	61
Excellent	1	2	16	10
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	8	6	2	2
Fair.....	34	32	6	15
Good	49	50	78	73
Excellent	7	10	14	10

NA – not available

(--)- zero