



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 18, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Harvest continued ahead of average for most crops last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Conditions remained very dry. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, the entire state was experiencing moderate to exceptional drought conditions. Over 59 percent of the state was rated in extreme to exceptional drought. Extreme wildfire activity due to warm temperatures and wind continued in northwestern counties, although small amounts of precipitation were received. In northeastern counties, corn for grain harvest was fully underway. Sugarbeet harvest continued and the fourth cutting of alfalfa neared completion. Winter wheat seeding also continued but emergence in areas was mixed due to very dry conditions. Livestock producers continued to provide supplemental feed in response to drought and feed supplies were limited. In east central counties, a prior high wind event caused newly seeded wheat fields to blow severely. A county report noted producers expect to chisel fields in response. No moisture was received last week. Sorghum harvest was also underway. Harvest of other non-irrigated spring crops such as sunflowers and corn was limited in areas due to damage from extreme drought. In southwestern counties, dry bean harvest was virtually complete and the fourth cutting of alfalfa continued. Exceptional drought conditions remained with little relief. Southeastern counties experienced freezing temperatures and windy weather last week. A county report noted calves were being marketed earlier than normal due to lack of available native grass. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 11 percent very short, 27 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 66 percent average and 34 percent light. Cattle death loss was 81 percent average and 19 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
4 th cutting harvested	75	59	63	62
Corn				
Mature	96	90	92	89
Harvested for grain	53	42	36	29
Dry edible beans				
Cut	97	94	95	NA
Harvested	78	58	71	85
Onions				
Harvested	93	89	92	NA
Proso Millet				
Harvested	94	82	96	NA
Sorghum				
Mature	92	85	91	84
Harvested	43	23	46	30
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	68	51	60	38
Sunflowers				
Harvested	68	39	51	28
Winter wheat				
Planted	98	94	95	93
Emergenced	68	56	69	67

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.....	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	52	46	16	9
Short.....	33	41	33	27
Adequate.....	15	13	51	63
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	50	41	12	10
Short.....	35	45	29	28
Adequate.....	15	14	56	61
Surplus.....	--	--	3	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)
Corn				
Very poor.....	26	15	2	1
Poor.....	22	25	7	5
Fair.....	28	32	27	22
Good.....	20	24	56	58
Excellent.....	4	4	8	14
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	36	33	2	7
Poor.....	30	29	7	14
Fair.....	26	30	26	25
Good.....	8	8	60	46
Excellent.....	--	--	5	8
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	15	6	1	3
Poor.....	20	18	3	5
Fair.....	49	58	27	24
Good.....	13	16	62	58
Excellent.....	3	2	7	10
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	11	1	--	1
Poor.....	21	10	1	2
Fair.....	53	77	18	24
Good.....	15	12	76	62
Excellent.....	--	--	5	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	21	NA	1	2
Poor.....	25	NA	10	10
Fair.....	36	NA	22	31
Good.....	17	NA	47	46
Excellent.....	1	NA	20	11
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	1	1	1
Poor.....	6	5	3	2
Fair.....	25	29	10	13
Good.....	58	59	74	74
Excellent.....	8	6	12	10

NA – not available

(--) – zero