



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2021

Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 14, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A significant spring storm brought feet of snow to some areas, good rain to others, and improved soil moisture supplies, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Heaviest amounts were reported in northern and eastern counties as well as the high country. In northeastern counties, producers were carrying out pre-planting fieldwork activities before the storm arrived. Calving and lambing progressed but were adversely impacted by heavy snow in areas. Concerns remained regarding lack of consistent moisture up to this week. A county report noted livestock producers were culling more stock than normal in response to continued drought. East central counties also received good moisture over the weekend, benefiting winter wheat and soil moisture ahead of spring planting. Winter weather in the area harmed newborn livestock and shortened feed supplies. In the San Luis Valley, limited fieldwork began around winter weather events. Producers noted soils were drier than normal, but received moisture was beneficial. Southeastern counties received mostly rain and some snow over the weekend. A county report noted recent moisture benefitted emerging winter wheat, but was notably behind due to prior dry conditions. Local feed supplies were notably short. High winds were also reported. As of March 12, 2021, snowpack in Colorado was 85 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 78 and 99 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 12 percent very short, 21 percent short, and 67 percent adequate. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 96 percent average, and 3 percent light. Cattle death loss was 7 percent heavy, 67 percent average, and 26 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Pastured.....	9	NA	9	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	35	8	32	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	30	11	22	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.3	NA	4.9	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	34	11	NA
Short.....	31	39	41	NA
Adequate.....	44	27	48	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	32	37	9	NA
Short.....	42	43	30	NA
Adequate.....	26	20	61	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	27	38	10	NA
Poor.....	30	29	12	NA
Fair.....	31	24	47	NA
Good	11	9	28	NA
Excellent	1	--	3	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	19	15	10	NA
Poor.....	17	14	11	NA
Fair.....	39	52	33	NA
Good	22	17	43	NA
Excellent	3	2	3	NA
Livestock				
Very poor	3	3	2	NA
Poor.....	9	8	6	NA
Fair.....	34	41	32	NA
Good	48	42	52	NA
Excellent	6	6	8	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero