



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 APRIL 25, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Producers experienced mixed conditions across the state last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In northwestern counties, drought conditions persisted and effects were noticeable even this early in the year. A county report noted more snowmelt than normal was being taken up by the soil instead of running off. Northeastern counties received isolated moisture that was enough to slow fieldwork in areas. Recent moisture benefitted winter wheat condition, although some frost damage was noted. Non-irrigated crop and pasture conditions remain a concern going forward if more moisture isn't received. A county report noted corn and sugarbeet planting began where soil temperatures increased suitably. In east central counties, temperatures remained cool and some areas received snow. Cold temperatures were a concern for winter wheat where snow cover wasn't established. A county report noted recent moisture improved soil moisture supplies but subsoil moisture remained short. Pastures remained behind with few greening up. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting continued quickly amidst dry weather. Potato planting also progressed but some producers were still waiting for warmer temperatures. Irrigation season began and alfalfa was slowly showing growth. A county report noted feed supplies were very short. In southeastern counties, light moisture and cold temperatures were reported. The cooler weather notably slowed alfalfa progress but was not cold enough to hamper winter wheat. High winds were also reported. As of April 23, 2021, snowpack in Colorado was 79 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 61 and 80 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 20 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 54 percent adequate. Sheep death loss was 70 percent average and 30 percent light. Cattle death loss was 7 percent heavy, 68 percent average, and 25 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	66	37	74	68
Emerged	26	2	25	19
Corn				
Planted	11	6	15	9
Onions				
Planted	20	15	24	52
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	4	1	18	NA
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	19	10	12	34
Sugarbeets				
Planted	12	4	17	38
Winter wheat				
Pastured	8	7	7	NA
Jointed	41	31	39	38
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	93	89	90	87
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	93	82	93	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.....	5.6	4.9	6.0	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	13	16	9
Short.....	42	36	31	17
Adequate.....	43	51	52	69
Surplus.....	--	--	1	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	32	32	13	8
Short.....	41	36	21	19
Adequate.....	27	32	65	71
Surplus.....	--	--	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	--	NA
Poor.....	5	NA	3	NA
Fair.....	29	NA	21	NA
Good.....	52	NA	70	NA
Excellent.....	13	NA	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	23	25	6	7
Poor.....	30	28	12	14
Fair.....	35	35	28	32
Good.....	12	12	52	43
Excellent.....	--	--	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	13	14	15	5
Poor.....	19	20	19	12
Fair.....	38	40	29	28
Good.....	27	23	35	47
Excellent.....	3	3	2	8
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	4	--	--
Poor.....	9	7	5	3
Fair.....	29	32	21	17
Good.....	54	49	65	72
Excellent.....	5	8	9	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero