



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 MAY 30, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Rainfall and wet conditions delayed planting and fieldwork in some eastern counties last week while western counties remained distressingly dry, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In northeastern counties, corn planting progressed but remained slightly behind the average. Planting and emergence of other crops picked up as conditions allowed, but the first cutting of alfalfa was delayed due to cool and wet weather. A county report noted producers were also treating alfalfa for aphids. Winter wheat and pasture conditions continued to improve from recent moisture. Heavy infestations of cheatgrass in areas were noted. In east central counties, continued moisture benefitted pasture and non-irrigated crop conditions. However, county reports noted producers were actively treating for stripe rust in area wheat. Drought in western counties continued to persist. Little moisture was received last week and windy conditions were observed. First cutting of alfalfa in the district progressed. Crops continued to advance but serious concerns remained regarding the drought. Local reservoirs were at extremely low levels. In the San Luis Valley, rain and severe weather were observed at the end of the week. Isolated crop damage from hail was reported in areas. County reports noted crops were doing well, but some alfalfa was adversely affected by frost. Feed supplies remained short but recent moisture helped improve pasture and range condition. In southeastern counties, moisture was received over the weekend. Fieldwork delays continued due to wet conditions and a county report noted elevated insect problems in alfalfa. As of May 26, 2021, snowpack in Colorado was 71 percent measured as percent of median snowfall. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 40 and 48 percent, respectively, compared to the South Platte basin at 134 percent. Stored feed supplies were rated 21 percent very short, 24 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 86 percent average and 14 percent light. Cattle death loss was 71 percent average and 29 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	15	5	23	18
Barley				
Emerged.....	95	89	96	93
Corn				
Planted.....	84	64	96	89
Emerged.....	54	32	81	64
Dry edible beans				
Planted.....	23	12	27	17
Emerged.....	1	NA	7	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted.....	98	94	NA	NA
Emerged.....	10	2	39	15
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted.....	100	92	96	94
Emerged.....	45	28	78	72
Proso millet				
Planted.....	10	7	45	NA
Sorghum				
Planted.....	26	11	40	29
Sugarbeets				
Emerged.....	83	56	70	85
Sunflowers				
Planted.....	18	10	38	16
Winter wheat				
Headed.....	56	25	64	67
Turning color.....	2	1	3	3

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.....	3.9	3.5	6.8	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	2	22	9
Short.....	8	14	41	18
Adequate.....	80	75	36	66
Surplus.....	12	9	1	7
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	10	21	8
Short.....	23	27	34	16
Adequate.....	71	62	45	72
Surplus.....	3	1	--	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	3	2	5	3
Poor.....	5	5	9	7
Fair.....	22	24	25	19
Good	55	50	55	59
Excellent	15	19	6	12
Barley				
Very poor	--	1	2	--
Poor.....	5	6	4	1
Fair.....	30	33	23	19
Good	49	46	47	57
Excellent	16	14	24	23
Corn				
Very poor	--	NA	1	NA
Poor.....	4	NA	8	NA
Fair.....	18	NA	38	NA
Good	59	NA	44	NA
Excellent	19	NA	9	NA
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	3	1
Poor.....	--	--	4	1
Fair.....	42	45	26	17
Good	53	55	60	73
Excellent	5	--	7	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor	1	6	19	8
Poor.....	18	18	16	10
Fair.....	53	51	33	22
Good	18	19	32	50
Excellent	10	6	--	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	NA	1	--
Poor.....	1	NA	5	2
Fair.....	30	NA	30	27
Good	56	NA	51	60
Excellent	13	NA	13	11
Winter wheat				
Very poor	4	4	20	6
Poor.....	11	12	21	13
Fair.....	35	40	28	25
Good	41	38	29	46
Excellent	9	6	2	10
Livestock				
Very poor	3	3	1	--
Poor.....	5	5	4	3
Fair.....	21	24	20	14
Good	63	58	65	71
Excellent	8	10	1	12

NA – not available

(--)- zero