



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
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Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Hot and mostly dry conditions persisted last week, contributing to declines in soil moisture supplies and dryland crop conditions, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Hay harvest continued in northwestern counties and little moisture was received last week. Extreme and exceptional drought conditions remained according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report. In northeastern counties, isolated moisture was received, but overall the district remained very dry. Grass fires due to lightning were reported. Yield expectations for non-irrigated crops declined due to lack of precipitation and livestock producers were monitoring rangeland closely with the expectation of pulling livestock off early. Irrigated crops continued to progress nicely according to county reports and irrigation water supplies were noted as adequate. East central counties received isolated precipitation last week and limited reports of corn harvested for silage were noted. The third cutting of alfalfa wrapped up in some areas. More counties were included in the abnormally dry designation last week according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report. In southwestern counties, most precipitation was confined to southern counties. Very hot temperatures persisted and county reports noted below normal hay yields. In the San Luis Valley, barley harvest began and the second cutting of alfalfa continued. County reports noted enough precipitation was received to support rangeland growth. In southeastern counties, spotty moisture was received. Irrigation water supplies remained mostly adequate, but rain is needed in the area. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 20 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 83 percent average and 17 percent light. Cattle death loss was 60 percent average and 40 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	85	74	94	92
3 rd cutting harvested.....	29	12	22	30
Barley				
Turning color.....	95	89	98	NA
Harvested.....	20	7	19	21
Corn				
Doughed.....	49	32	52	39
Dented.....	12	10	11	5
Harvested for silage.....	1	--	2	2
Dry edible beans				
Blooming.....	99	88	91	NA
Sorghum				
Headed.....	91	77	72	75
Turning color.....	9	3	4	10

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	6.4	7.0	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	13	38	12
Short.....	42	37	42	25
Adequate.....	44	49	20	60
Surplus.....	--	1	--	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	25	23	43	14
Short.....	35	34	36	23
Adequate.....	40	43	21	61
Surplus.....	--	--	--	2

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	8	12	7	4
Poor.....	15	20	14	10
Fair.....	18	19	22	20
Good	49	38	48	54
Excellent	10	11	9	12
Barley				
Very poor	1	--	--	1
Poor.....	13	14	1	3
Fair.....	43	42	22	23
Good	27	26	58	53
Excellent	16	18	19	20
Corn				
Very poor	3	2	14	4
Poor.....	12	13	14	8
Fair.....	29	24	26	20
Good	41	42	36	57
Excellent	15	19	10	11
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	--	--	3	3
Poor.....	15	16	19	10
Fair.....	32	32	41	29
Good	44	43	37	54
Excellent	9	9	--	4
Onions				
Very poor	2	2	2	1
Poor.....	11	11	6	3
Fair.....	38	38	28	17
Good	43	43	59	69
Excellent	6	6	5	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	9	5	27	12
Poor.....	19	17	28	14
Fair.....	30	30	31	24
Good	22	25	13	44
Excellent	20	23	1	6
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	5	5	2	--
Poor.....	20	20	5	5
Fair.....	36	35	13	17
Good	34	35	55	57
Excellent	5	5	25	21
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	--	--	2	1
Poor.....	2	2	7	2
Fair.....	34	34	23	12
Good	55	55	56	72
Excellent	9	9	12	13
Sorghum				
Very poor	3	2	17	5
Poor.....	4	3	21	10
Fair.....	19	15	39	26
Good	56	65	20	53
Excellent	18	15	3	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	--	--	1	--
Poor.....	--	--	4	3
Fair.....	25	25	22	14
Good	50	50	60	69
Excellent	25	25	13	14
Sunflowers				
Very poor	--	--	7	2
Poor.....	10	8	24	7
Fair.....	30	29	47	26
Good	55	58	21	59
Excellent	5	5	1	6
Livestock				
Very poor	1	1	3	1
Poor.....	5	5	7	4
Fair.....	17	12	33	18
Good	60	63	50	67
Excellent	17	19	7	10

NA – not available

(--)- zero