COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2022

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING MAY 8, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Windy conditions, minimal moisture, and warm temperatures were seen across most of the State last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 91 percent of the State is under drought conditions, up 2 percentage points from last week. Forty-eight percent of the State is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions and extreme drought conditions are affecting 4 percent of the State, both unchanged from the previous week. In northeastern and east central counties, precipitation improved winter wheat conditions, but in return, delayed corn planting. Counties saw a reprieve from windy conditions early in the week, but strong winds were back over the weekend, reaching close to 50 miles per hour in many areas. In Southwestern counties, high winds continued. The area saw one moisture event, but no measurable moisture was received. In the San Luis Valley, barley and potato planting progressed quickly due to favorable planting conditions. A reporter noted grasses are slow to green up due to lack of moisture. Lambing and calving continue to progress well and are almost complete. The southeastern counties received minimal moisture last week. Smoke from fires in Arizona and New Mexico is affecting air quality in the southern part of the State. Overall, calving and lambing continued with few issues and are winding down, with 96 percent of cows calved and 98 percent ewes lambed. As of May 8, 2022, snowpack in Colorado was 72 percent measured as percent of median snowfall, down 4 percentage points from the previous week. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 25 and 14 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 17 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 60 percent adequate. Sheep death loss was 89 percent average and 11 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 91 percent average, and 8 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted	85	70	90	91
Emerged	54	25	66	66
Corn				
Planted	23	13	39	34
Onions				
Planted	45	30	55	66
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	50	19	57	52
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	40	25	51	58
Emerged	1	NA	3	7
Sugarbeeets				
Planted	48	18	53	69
Emerged	6	--	8	20
Winter wheat				
Pastured	21	10	NA	NA
Jointed	55	40	70	66
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	96	92	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	98	95	NA	NA

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	4.1	6.1	5.4	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	38	48	14	11
Short	30	40	29	20
Adequate	27	12	54	66
Surplus	5	--	3	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	31	37	30	13
Short	44	45	34	23
Adequate	25	18	36	63
Surplus	--	--	--	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)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	5	4	--	2
Poor	6	7	5	6
Fair	34	44	23	21
Good	55	44	55	59
Excellent	--	1	17	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	21	26	23	10
Poor	21	26	26	14
Fair	24	20	43	30
Good	34	27	8	43
Excellent	--	1	--	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor	24	23	12	9
Poor	34	34	18	13
Fair	31	31	42	30
Good	11	12	25	41
Excellent	--	--	3	7
Livestock				
Very poor	4	1	3	1
Poor	11	8	8	5
Fair	26	20	26	19
Good	52	61	55	67
Excellent	7	10	8	8

NA – not available
(--) – zero