COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

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

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING MAY 15, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm weather helped fieldwork and crop emergence advance last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 92 percent of the State is under drought conditions, up 1 percentage point from last week. Fifty-seven percent of the State is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions, up 9 percentage points from last week. Extreme drought conditions are affecting 6 percent of the State, up 2 percentage points from the previous week. In northeastern and east central counties, reporters noted that wheat conditions and growth rate vary greatly due to continued winds and lack of moisture. Counties continued to experience strong winds throughout the week, with the northeastern corner of the state experiencing gusts above 50 miles per hour. Counties in eastern districts saw temperatures more than 10 degrees above average last week. In Southwestern counties, dry weather and winds continue to deteriorate crop conditions. A county reporter noted that many producers have finished planting spring crops, but some fields have been replanted due to winds blowing seed away. In the San Luis Valley, potato planting progressed quickly, and some barley fields are being replanted due to high winds. County reports noted fields are starting to green up, but the alfalfa crop was setback by a late frost. The southeastern counties continue to experience high winds. Above average temperatures and dry conditions throughout the region continue to worsen crop and pasture conditions. As of May 8, 2022, snowpack in Colorado was 55 percent measured as percent of median snowfall, down 17 percentage points from the previous week. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 6 and 2 percent, respectively, both down greatly from the previous week. Stored feed supplies were rated 12 percent very short, 26 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 79 percent average and 21 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 83 percent average, and 16 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted...	95	85	94	94
Emerged..	70	54	79	83
Corn				
Planted...	41	23	51	55
Emerged..	6	--	9	15
Onions				
Planted...	57	45	78	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted...	79	50	80	73
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted...	55	40	75	73
Emerged..	12	1	12	21
Proso millet				
Planted...	1	--	1	NA
Sorghum				
Planted...	5	--	3	7
Sugarbeets				
Planted...	71	48	83	85
Emerged..	13	6	15	36
Sunflowers				
Planted...	2	--	3	5
Winter wheat				
Pastured..	8	21	NA	NA
Jointed..	74	55	83	80
Headed...	6	--	4	15

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	6.8	4.1	5.0	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short...	30	38	6	8
Short	30	30	29	21
Adequate...	40	27	62	67
Surplus..	--	5	3	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short...	33	31	22	12
Short	41	44	34	22
Adequate...	26	25	44	65
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..	10	5	1	3
Poor...	10	6	5	7
Fair	34	34	24	22
Good	45	55	52	56
Excellent...	1	--	18	12
Barley				
Very poor..	2	NA	1	--
Poor...	5	NA	6	2
Fair	19	NA	32	19
Good	57	NA	44	56
Excellent...	17	NA	17	23
Pasture and range				
Very poor..	33	21	13	9
Poor...	19	21	27	13
Fair	18	24	50	31
Good	30	34	9	43
Excellent...	--	--	1	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor..	20	24	10	9
Poor...	25	34	20	14
Fair	36	31	38	32
Good	18	11	29	39
Excellent...	1	--	3	6
Livestock				
Very poor..	--	4	3	1
Poor...	7	11	6	5
Fair	26	26	23	19
Good	58	52	59	65
Excellent...	9	7	9	10

NA – not available

(--) – zero