



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 SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Record breaking temperatures, followed by a stark cool down affected crop conditions across 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, 46 percent of the State is under drought conditions, unchanged from the previous week. Seventeen percent of the State is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions, unchanged from last week. Extreme drought conditions are affecting 3 percent of the State, down one percentage point from last week. Exceptional drought conditions in areas of Phillips and Sedgwick Counties were unchanged from last week, accounting for less than one percent of the State. In northeastern and east central counties, temperatures reached above 100 degrees during the middle of the week, with some areas seeing temperatures above 105 degrees. For the second week in a row, no measurable moisture was received across much of the district. Limited precipitation allowed for planting of the 2023 winter wheat crop to progress ahead of the 5-year average. Corn for silage harvest progressed quickly last week, moving ahead of the previous year and 5-year average pace. Reports from the district show third cutting of alfalfa is almost complete, while the fourth cutting progressed well in other areas of the district. In southwestern counties, dry conditions, and temperatures more than ten degrees above normal were prevalent. Corn for silage harvest progressed well last week. Warm conditions allowed for the corn crop to progress quickly in the district, with most of the crop past the dough stage. In the San Luis Valley, previous rains helped the current cutting of alfalfa, but recent dry conditions are starting to affect the crop. Reporters note that barley harvest is winding down, while oat harvest has begun in the district. Potato harvest is progressing slowly but is expected to pick up this week. Initial reports show the potato crop is good quality with average yields. Livestock are in good condition. Southeastern counties received no measurable moisture last week. Temperatures in the high 90's allowed crops to mature quickly. Stored feed supplies were rated 15 percent very short, 18 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 85 percent average and 15 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 90 percent average, and 9 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	70	60	71	71
4 th cutting harvested	15	4	14	14
Barley				
Harvested	80	62	94	93
Corn				
Doughed	85	75	95	94
Dented	46	40	72	67
Mature	1	1	18	13
Harvested for silage	40	20	30	37
Dry edible beans				
Cut	25	9	32	36
Harvested	1	NA	8	13
Onions				
Harvested	31	20	43	36
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	10	8	5	12
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	40	25	42	40
Proso millet				
Harvested	19	8	64	NA
Sorghum				
Turning color	81	58	84	68
Mature	10	--	26	16
Winter wheat				
Planted	20	13	28	18
Emerged	1	NA	7	4

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	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	20	27	18	15
Short	51	45	38	36
Adequate	29	28	44	48
Surplus	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	26	29	23	17
Short	40	40	37	34
Adequate	34	31	40	48
Surplus	--	--	--	1

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.....	5	3	7	6
Poor.....	11	10	10	10
Fair.....	20	18	22	21
Good.....	56	62	51	55
Excellent.....	8	7	10	8
Corn				
Very poor.....	10	23	6	5
Poor.....	19	24	14	11
Fair.....	40	29	27	23
Good.....	28	19	41	51
Excellent.....	3	5	12	10
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	3
Poor.....	6	5	12	13
Fair.....	13	10	37	33
Good.....	45	40	34	45
Excellent.....	35	45	17	6
Onions				
Very poor.....	4	3	2	NA
Poor.....	7	6	11	NA
Fair.....	25	25	38	NA
Good.....	63	63	43	NA
Excellent.....	1	3	6	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	15	15	11	13
Poor.....	23	20	22	19
Fair.....	20	22	31	27
Good.....	32	30	27	35
Excellent.....	10	13	9	6
Potatoes inside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	2	3	3	2
Poor.....	3	6	16	12
Fair.....	22	20	26	22
Good.....	55	51	43	47
Excellent.....	18	20	12	17
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	1	2
Fair.....	60	60	34	18
Good.....	35	35	56	66
Excellent.....	5	5	9	13
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	4	3	5
Poor.....	11	10	7	8
Fair.....	48	43	21	25
Good.....	41	43	58	54
Excellent.....	--	--	11	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	--	3
Fair.....	50	50	28	18
Good.....	50	50	56	64
Excellent.....	--	--	16	14
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	6	8	1	2
Poor.....	7	10	9	9
Fair.....	58	48	29	27
Good.....	25	31	56	56
Excellent.....	4	3	5	6
Livestock				
Very poor.....	5	12	1	1
Poor.....	4	9	5	4
Fair.....	7	6	18	16
Good.....	65	52	63	69
Excellent.....	19	21	13	10

NA – not available

(--)- zero