



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 25, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures and scattered storms provided some relief across the State last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Portions of the mountains recorded overnight lows that dipped into the teens, while the eastern plains recorded lows in the 40's last week. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for September 20, just under 48 percent of the State was categorized in moderate drought or worse, up from the previous week. Eighteen percent of the State is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions, up one percentage point from last week. The exceptional drought conditions noted across portions of Phillips and Sedgwick Counties accounted for less than one percent of the State, unchanged from last week. The northeast corner of the State received good moisture last week, with portions of Phillips, Sedgwick and Yuma Counties receiving almost two inches of moisture. Southwestern counties also received helpful moisture, with the southern portion of La Plata County getting over two inches of rain last week. Reporters in the district noted that corn silage harvest was delayed due to the moisture. Proso millet harvest continues in the northeastern portion of the state, with 60 percent of the crop harvested, significantly behind the previous year at 86 percent. Elsewhere, potato harvest in the San Luis Valley was reported to be going well. Reports from the area show third cutting of alfalfa is progressing slowly compared to the rest of the State. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is progressing well in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the State, tracking with the 5-year average. Statewide, growers had sown 48 percent of the 2023 winter wheat crop, compared with 56 percent last year and a 5-year average of 53 percent. Corn for silage harvest continued to progress quickly, with 22 percent of the crop cut during the week. The corn crop matured quickly and corn for grain harvest started last week, behind the previous year of 14 percent and the 5-year average of 8 percent. County reports note that rainstorms delayed harvest activities last week. Livestock were reported in mostly good condition. Stored feed supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 27 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 90 percent average and 10 percent light. Cattle death loss was 84 percent average and 16 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	86	80	86	86
4 th cutting harvested	30	24	28	30
Corn				
Dented.....	85	65	95	91
Mature	40	20	51	42
Harvested for grain.....	1	--	14	8
Harvested for silage	82	60	90	80
Dry edible beans				
Cut.....	70	50	72	68
Harvested.....	30	10	33	34
Onions				
Harvested.....	69	50	80	69
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	31	20	36	39
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	70	55	74	63
Proso millet				
Harvested.....	60	40	86	NA
Sorghum				
Mature	42	28	51	38
Harvested.....	5	--	10	6
Sugarbeets				
Harvested.....	18	10	28	16
Winter wheat				
Planted	48	31	56	53
Emerged.....	20	9	24	22

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.....	5.3	6.5	6.9	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	25	30	19	16
Short	42	42	46	36
Adequate	32	26	35	45
Surplus	1	2	--	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	41	36	30	18
Short.....	33	36	40	33
Adequate	26	28	30	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.....	4	2	8	6
Poor.....	6	5	11	12
Fair.....	34	29	21	21
Good.....	49	60	52	53
Excellent.....	7	4	8	8
Corn				
Very poor.....	22	20	14	5
Poor.....	23	28	20	14
Fair.....	30	30	25	23
Good.....	22	20	33	48
Excellent.....	3	2	8	10
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	6	3	--	NA
Poor.....	10	10	10	NA
Fair.....	19	18	39	NA
Good.....	34	36	34	NA
Excellent.....	31	33	17	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	14	22	15	13
Poor.....	35	28	20	21
Fair.....	25	13	22	25
Good.....	22	26	30	34
Excellent.....	4	11	13	7
Potatoes inside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	5	5	6	2
Poor.....	10	10	20	9
Fair.....	25	25	33	23
Good.....	45	45	31	48
Excellent.....	15	15	10	18
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	6	4	9	7
Poor.....	10	15	10	10
Fair.....	36	36	19	27
Good.....	48	45	48	47
Excellent.....	--	--	14	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	5	--	--	5
Fair.....	55	50	25	23
Good.....	40	50	50	57
Excellent.....	--	--	25	14
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	6	15	--	2
Poor.....	10	15	8	8
Fair.....	45	45	35	31
Good.....	34	25	49	51
Excellent.....	5	--	8	8
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	--	5	2
Poor.....	3	1	8	5
Fair.....	18	16	27	23
Good.....	42	57	48	61
Excellent.....	36	26	12	9

NA – not available

(--)- zero