



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2023

Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 26, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler temperatures were observed 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, 36 percent of the state was under drought conditions, unchanged from last week and down from 83 percent a year ago. Nine percent of the state was experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions, equal to last week. Calving and lambing made significant progress, with reporters noting some producers are having difficulty with the cold, wet weather. Below average temperatures continued in northwestern counties. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA, snowpack in the region was 149 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received above average moisture last week, with much of the district receiving over half an inch according to the National Weather Service. Feed supplies in the district are short and pasture conditions were reported as very poor to fair. In the San Luis Valley, cold temperatures slowed down fieldwork. Barley planting continued ahead of the normal pace. Reporters noted the valley floor remained dry, but runoff from above average snowpack should help the irrigation season. In southeastern counties, conditions remained dry and winter wheat was primarily rated very poor to poor condition. Southwestern counties experienced multiple moisture events last week, with more than two inches reported in many areas according to the National Weather Service. Reporters in Dolores and San Miguel Counties noted that heavy snowpack remained prevalent on fields across the district. Cold weather and moisture had a negative impact on calving and lambing in the area last week. Calving and lambing continued with few issues, with 53 percent of cows calved and 49 percent of ewes lambed. As of March 26, 2023, snowpack in Colorado was 141 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 183 and 141 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 14 percent very short, 30 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 47 percent average and 52 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 38 percent average, and 61 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	8	4	2	4
Winter wheat				
Pastured	10	15	9	12
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	53	39	64	55
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	49	34	44	47

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	4.1	5.9	5.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	5	16	13
Short	13	17	39	28
Adequate.....	71	71	44	57
Surplus.....	6	7	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	16	10	31	18
Short	24	29	46	61
Adequate.....	59	60	23	50
Surplus.....	1	1	--	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)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	8	17	13
Poor.....	18	18	20	18
Fair.....	44	37	31	37
Good	27	35	30	29
Excellent.....	1	2	2	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	11	9	14	9
Poor.....	11	14	25	16
Fair.....	50	41	50	36
Good	28	36	11	32
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
Livestock				
Very poor.....	5	1	--	1
Poor.....	12	14	6	4
Fair.....	31	39	19	23
Good	44	44	60	64
Excellent.....	8	2	15	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero