



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 17, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Most of the State received moisture last week, although totals varied greatly across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) data, widespread precipitation was reported across the State Friday and Saturday, with most of the State receiving, at minimum, 0.25 inch of moisture. Counties in the central and southern portion of the State received upwards of three inches in select areas. The U.S. Drought Monitor published on September 14 was primarily the same as the previous week, with drought conditions prevalent in western and southwestern counties. Just over 15 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions and 13 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. Three percent of the State was rated in severe drought, equal to last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, cooler than average temperatures were widespread across the State last week, with some south-central counties experiencing daytime high temperatures more than 12 degrees cooler than average. Winter wheat seeding continued across the eastern portion of the State. Reports from the San Luis Valley noted potato harvest was progressing well. Livestock were in good shape, and pastures were maturing as normal for the season.

The third cutting of alfalfa slowed amongst a moisture filled week, with 70 percent harvested, behind last year at 79 percent and the 5-year average of 78 percent. Fourth cutting has started off significantly behind normal, with 9 percent harvested, compared with a 5-year average of 23 percent. Barley harvest was almost complete, with 95 percent harvested, ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. The corn crop continued to mature, with 71 percent of the crop dented, behind the 5-year average of 78 percent, and 14 percent of the crop in the mature stage, behind the 5-year average of 24 percent. Corn harvested for silage continues to progress slowly, with 34 percent of the crop harvested. Harvest of the proso millet crop continued slower than average, with 36 percent of the crop harvested, greatly behind the 5-year average of 52 percent. Potato harvest continued its slow start in the San Luis Valley last week, with 11 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 89 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 68 percent average, and 31 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 91 percent average, and 8 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	70	66	79	78
4 th cutting harvested	9	5	23	23
Barley				
Harvested	95	92	94	96
Corn				
Dented	71	59	62	78
Mature	14	7	17	24
Harvested for silage	34	26	57	57
Dry edible beans				
Cut	47	30	46	52
Harvested	10	1	9	20
Onions				
Harvested	50	45	47	52
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	11	6	19	21
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	70	65	53	56
Proso millet				
Harvested	36	26	37	52
Sorghum				
Turning color	81	57	93	85
Mature	25	12	25	27
Winter wheat				
Planted	29	19	29	33
Emerged	2	1	8	11

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	6.0	6.9	6.5	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	15	7	30	19
Short	33	28	42	38
Adequate	50	59	26	42
Surplus	2	6	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	8	5	36	23
Short	21	18	36	34
Adequate	69	72	28	42
Surplus	2	5	--	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	5	2	6
Poor	10	9	5	11
Fair.....	25	25	29	22
Good	51	53	60	53
Excellent.....	10	8	4	8
Corn				
Very poor.....	5	3	20	10
Poor	15	7	28	16
Fair.....	26	29	30	24
Good	47	48	20	43
Excellent.....	7	13	2	7
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	7	5	3	4
Poor	16	8	10	15
Fair.....	36	37	18	27
Good	34	44	36	42
Excellent.....	7	6	33	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	8	22	17
Poor	10	9	28	22
Fair.....	17	23	13	25
Good	58	49	26	30
Excellent.....	5	11	11	6
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	3
Poor	6	6	10	9
Fair.....	18	19	25	25
Good	52	52	45	45
Excellent.....	24	23	15	18
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	1	1	4	4
Poor	2	5	15	11
Fair.....	14	11	36	33
Good	75	82	45	47
Excellent.....	8	1	--	5
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	--	1	--	3
Fair.....	25	25	50	27
Good	57	56	50	56
Excellent.....	18	18	--	13
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	1	--	15	5
Poor	4	1	15	11
Fair.....	14	11	45	33
Good	78	83	25	47
Excellent.....	3	5	--	4
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor	4	2	1	4
Fair.....	9	7	16	20
Good	83	84	57	61
Excellent.....	3	6	26	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero