



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2025

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures and below average precipitation were prevalent across the State during the month of December, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor report published on January 1, almost 25 percent of the State was abnormally dry or in a state of drought. Just over 4 percent of the State was in severe to exceptional drought, an improvement from last December, when almost 9 percent of the State was under severe to exceptional drought conditions. Areas of northern Larimer and Weld Counties were experiencing extreme drought conditions, encompassing less than 1 percent of the State. Temperatures across the State for the month of December trended above average. Several counties realized temperatures more than six degrees above normal, with isolated areas of the State realizing temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal. The high country of Gunnison and Saguache Counties, as well as an isolated area in Las Animas County, experienced temperatures below normal. Reports from Grand and Jackson Counties stated it has been a mild winter, and snow is needed to replenish ground moisture and irrigation supply. Wolf depredations continued as producers experience devastating losses. Northeastern counties remained dry, receiving minimal moisture in the month of December. Many southwestern counties received at least half an inch of moisture during the month of December, with areas of the high country receiving upwards of three inches of moisture. A Dolores County reporter stated hay demand is low due to producers being able to continually graze pastures with a lack of snow cover. The San Luis Valley has received limited moisture this winter, with reporters noting that carry over moisture from November has helped. Livestock were in good condition and pastures have held condition well for December, according to reporters. Statewide, winter wheat condition improved slightly, with 70 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared with 68 percent good to excellent from the previous report and 61 percent good to excellent last year. As of January 6, 2025, snowpack in Colorado was 98 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on February 3, 2025; and for February on March 3, 2025.

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	18	9	16	NA
Short	16	17	29	NA
Adequate	65	62	55	NA
Surplus	1	12	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	16	12	12	NA
Short	24	21	34	NA
Adequate	59	59	54	NA
Surplus	1	8	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	5	18	4	NA
Poor.....	22	21	8	NA
Fair.....	33	27	16	NA
Good.....	39	33	67	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	5	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	2	4	NA
Poor.....	7	8	7	NA
Fair.....	18	22	28	NA
Good.....	61	60	56	NA
Excellent.....	9	8	5	NA
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	3	--	NA
Poor.....	2	6	1	NA
Fair.....	28	28	6	NA
Good.....	57	57	86	NA
Excellent.....	12	6	7	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero