



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
January 29, 2024

Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Below average precipitation and cooler temperatures were widespread in January across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S Drought Monitor, 39 percent of the State is showing no signs of drought, up from 35 percent at the beginning of the month. Just under 7 percent of the State was in severe to exceptional drought, a better start than last year when over 11 percent of the State was under severe to exceptional drought conditions. Areas of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande Counties continue to experience extreme drought conditions after continued below average precipitation. A majority of the State received less than one inch of moisture throughout January, and areas of the high country received upwards of five inches of moisture. In northwestern counties, snowfall was abundant early in the month, but windy conditions have created snow drifts and bare ground. Northeastern and east central counties remained dry with below average temperatures. Reporters in southwestern counties noted the warm temperatures have led to concern for fall-seeded crops and potential impacts of an early spring freeze. Reporters in southeastern counties noted a storm that brought more than 50 mile per hour winds and more than a foot of snow to the district in early January. The San Luis Valley remains dry, and the open winter has allowed for extended grazing. Livestock were in good condition and supplemental feeding has occurred in the Valley. Snowpack in the area continued below average in January and is currently 69 percent of median snowfall. The Statewide, winter wheat condition improved slightly, with 63 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, compared to 61 percent good to excellent from the previous report, and 38 percent good to excellent last year. As of January 29, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 88 percent measured as percent of median snowfall.

Note: The monthly report for February will be released on Monday, February 26, 2024.

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	11	16	4	NA
Short	12	29	18	NA
Adequate	63	55	67	NA
Surplus.....	14	--	11	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	15	12	17	NA
Short	14	34	40	NA
Adequate	61	54	42	NA
Surplus.....	10	--	1	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.....	2	4	8	NA
Poor.....	3	8	15	NA
Fair.....	19	16	52	NA
Good.....	71	67	24	NA
Excellent.....	5	5	1	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	4	7	NA
Poor.....	6	7	17	NA
Fair.....	26	28	38	NA
Good.....	56	56	35	NA
Excellent.....	7	5	3	NA
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	--	8	NA
Poor.....	3	1	11	NA
Fair.....	11	6	27	NA
Good.....	72	86	40	NA
Excellent.....	12	7	14	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero