



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 17, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A snowstorm last week brought above average moisture levels throughout most of the State, with areas of the high country and foothills having received more than two feet of snow, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on March 14, drought conditions were present across 10 percent of the State, down from over 36 percent a year ago. Areas within in the San Luis Valley were in a state of extreme drought, while the western portion of the State was abnormally dry. Reporters in northwestern counties stated that calving and lambing were minimal up to this point. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 113 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received some moisture last week, but missed out on a majority of the recent storm activities. Larimer County received high levels of moisture, while Logan and Sedgwick Counties received minimal moisture. In the San Luis Valley, fieldwork was still limited. Reporters noted that several days of significant snow in both the high country and on the valley floor improved outlooks moving into spring. Calving and lambing continued, and pastures were in good condition. In southeastern counties, moisture conditions varied greatly, with areas of Custer, Fremont, and Pueblo counties receiving over two inches of moisture, while Baca and Prowers counties remained primarily dry. Southwestern counties received good moisture last week, with over an inch reported in many areas according to the National Weather Service. As of March 18, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 109 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 103 and 101 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	2	NA	3	2
Onions				
Planted	6	NA	--	--
Winter wheat				
Pastured	3	NA	15	12
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	25	10	36	39
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	15	5	30	32

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.0	NA	4.1	3.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	9	5	5	8
Short	24	17	17	22
Adequate	58	65	71	66
Surplus	9	13	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	15	8	10	14
Short	20	19	29	34
Adequate	54	61	60	51
Surplus	11	12	1	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	1	8	12
Poor.....	11	3	18	17
Fair.....	19	18	37	37
Good.....	61	69	35	30
Excellent.....	5	9	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	4	3	9	9
Poor.....	5	4	14	14
Fair.....	26	37	41	36
Good.....	59	49	36	36
Excellent.....	6	7	--	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	4	1	1	2
Poor.....	8	3	14	8
Fair.....	20	10	39	32
Good.....	55	79	44	52
Excellent.....	13	7	2	6

NA – not available

(--)- zero