



# 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  
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Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Above average temperatures were widespread, while moisture was limited to the western slope and high country last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on March 21, drought conditions were present across 8 percent of the State, down from over 36 percent a year ago. Drought within the San Luis Valley improved to moderate, while the western portion of the State was abnormally dry. Calving and lambing was still limited in northwestern counties. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 109 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received minimal moisture, and experienced above average temperatures last week. Reports showed planting of the onion and sugarbeet crop was underway in the area. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting had begun, and fieldwork advanced to prepare cropland for planting. Calving and lambing made significant progress, and pastures were in good condition. Reporters noted that producers had been cutting potato seed. In southeastern counties, moisture conditions varied greatly, with areas of Custer, Huerfano, Las Animas, and Pueblo Counties receiving over half an inch of moisture, while Baca and Prowers Counties remained primarily dry. Southwestern counties received good moisture last week, with over half an inch reported in many areas according to the National Weather Service. Reporters noted soil moisture had improved and warm temperatures had started perennial grass green up. As of March 25, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 108 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 105 and 109 percent, respectively. Stored feed supplies were rated 6 percent very short, 13 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 28 percent average and 72 percent light. Sheep death loss was 12 percent average and 88 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	7	2	7	4
Onions				
Planted .....	12	6	--	--
Sugarbeets				
Planted .....	4	--	--	--
Winter wheat				
Pastured .....	12	3	10	11
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	53	25	49	54
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	33	15	45	45

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 .....	6.1	4.0	4.1	4.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	9	9	10	10
Short .....	15	24	13	23
Adequate.....	61	58	71	64
Surplus.....	15	9	6	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	15	16	17
Short .....	10	20	24	31
Adequate.....	66	54	59	51
Surplus.....	15	11	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	4	10	11
Poor.....	12	11	18	17
Fair .....	15	19	44	38
Good .....	60	61	27	31
Excellent.....	3	5	1	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	4	11	10
Poor.....	2	5	11	15
Fair .....	28	26	50	38
Good .....	62	59	28	33
Excellent.....	6	6	--	4
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	4	5	2
Poor.....	3	8	12	6
Fair .....	9	20	31	26
Good .....	75	55	44	58
Excellent.....	11	13	8	8

NA – not available

(-) – zero