



# 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  
April 1, 2024

Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Below average temperatures were widespread, while moisture was limited to the 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 26, drought conditions were present across just under 8 percent of the State, down slightly from last week and down from 36 percent a year ago. Drought within the San Luis Valley remained moderate, while the western portion of the State was abnormally dry. Northwestern counties experienced warm spring weather, mixed with snow and rain showers last week. Reports from the area noted that more producers indicated calving and lambing had begun, but overall, progress was still limited. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 112 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received minimal moisture last week and experienced below average temperatures. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crop continued ahead of normal. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting was slowed due to snow, while potato field cultivation began last week. Calving and lambing progressed, with some losses reported due to mud. Pastures remained in good condition. Moisture received in southeastern counties was minimal last week. Higher elevations in southwestern counties received good moisture last week. Areas of Dolores, San Juan, San Miguel and Ouray Counties received over half an inch of moisture according to the National Weather Service. Most of the district experienced temperatures more than four degrees below average, with highs in the 50's and 60's last week. As of April 1, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 109 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 104 and 109 percent, respectively.

Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 15 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 29 percent average and 70 percent light. Sheep death loss was 24 percent average and 76 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity         | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barley            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....     | 12                        | 7                          | 12                         | 10                          |
| Onions            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....     | 20                        | 12                         | --                         | --                          |
| Sugarbeets        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....     | 5                         | 4                          | --                         | --                          |
| Winter wheat      |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Pastured .....    | 9                         | 12                         | 8                          | 11                          |
| Jointing .....    | 1                         | NA                         | --                         | 2                           |
| Cattle and calves |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Cows calved ..... | 60                        | 53                         | 59                         | 64                          |
| Sheep and lambs   |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Ewes lambd .....  | 50                        | 33                         | 58                         | 57                          |

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 ..... | 4.5          | 6.1           | 3.9           | 4.9            |
| Topsoil moisture                  | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                   | 12           | 9             | 17            | 12             |
| Short .....                       | 18           | 15            | 17            | 24             |
| Adequate.....                     | 55           | 61            | 62            | 62             |
| Surplus.....                      | 15           | 15            | 4             | 2              |
| Subsoil moisture                  |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                   | 11           | 9             | 23            | 18             |
| Short .....                       | 15           | 10            | 24            | 28             |
| Adequate.....                     | 60           | 66            | 51            | 53             |
| Surplus.....                      | 14           | 15            | 2             | 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.....    | 3            | 10            | 11            | 12             |
| Poor.....         | 7            | 12            | 17            | 18             |
| Fair .....        | 13           | 15            | 40            | 37             |
| Good .....        | 67           | 60            | 31            | 30             |
| Excellent.....    | 10           | 3             | 1             | 3              |
| Winter wheat      |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 4            | 2             | 11            | 10             |
| Poor.....         | 4            | 2             | 22            | 17             |
| Fair .....        | 34           | 28            | 40            | 35             |
| Good .....        | 54           | 62            | 26            | 33             |
| Excellent.....    | 4            | 6             | 1             | 5              |
| Livestock         |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 2            | 2             | 12            | 4              |
| Poor.....         | 5            | 3             | 12            | 6              |
| Fair .....        | 13           | 9             | 22            | 23             |
| Good .....        | 66           | 75            | 46            | 58             |
| Excellent.....    | 14           | 11            | 8             | 9              |

NA – not available

(-) – zero