COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING APRIL 7, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Windy conditions were prevalent across the State last week, while moisture was sporadic and primarily contained to higher elevations according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on April 4, drought conditions were present across just over 7 percent of the State, down slightly from last week and down from 38 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 cold mornings and snow showers last week. Reports from the area noted that more producers indicated calving and lambing had begun. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 106 percent of median snowfall. Moisture in northeastern counties was sporadic last week, areas of Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick and Washington counties received half an inch of moisture and other counties remained primarily dry. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crops continued ahead of normal, but progress slowed this week. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting continued amongst a primarily dry week in the area. Cultivation of potato fields continued last week. Pastures remained in good condition. Southeastern counties received good moisture last week. Reporters noted that late season snowfall has improved summer irrigation prospects. Areas of Dolores, San Juan, San Miguel and Ouray counties received over an inch of moisture according to the National Weather Service. Most of the district experienced temperatures more than two degrees below average, with average highs in the 60's last week. As of April 8, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 106 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 105 and 108 percent, respectively.

Planting of the barley crop continued to progress quickly across the State, with 20 percent of the crop planted, compared to last year at 15 percent and the 5-year average of 19 percent. Onion planting in the northeastern portion of the State continued to advance quickly compared to normal progress, with 25 percent of expected acres planted. Stored feed supplies were rated 6 percent very short, 16 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 20 percent average and 79 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 20 percent average and 79 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Planted	20	12	15	19
Onions				
Planted	25	20	--	2
Sugarbeets				
Planted	7	5	--	1
Winter wheat				
Pastured	5	9	9	12
Jointing	10	1	5	8
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	66	60	69	73
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	60	50	67	69

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	5.9	4.5	5.8	5.8
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short..	24	12	11	13
Short	14	18	24	28
Adequate..	52	55	57	56
Surplus...	10	15	8	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short..	14	11	17	18
Short	27	15	32	30
Adequate..	53	60	49	51
Surplus...	6	14	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...	9	3	9	12
Poor...	15	7	18	18
Fair..	15	13	39	35
Good	56	67	33	33
Excellent..	5	10	1	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor...	8	4	12	10
Poor...	13	4	22	19
Fair..	26	34	41	35
Good	46	54	23	31
Excellent..	7	4	2	5
Livestock				
Very poor...	4	2	1	1
Poor...	6	5	14	7
Fair	14	13	38	28
Good	64	66	46	57
Excellent..	12	14	1	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero