



# 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 14, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Windy conditions and warm temperatures were prevalent across the State last week, while moisture was minimal according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on April 11, drought conditions were present across just under 3 percent of the State, an improvement from last week and down from 40 percent a year ago. Conditions within the San Luis Valley were upgraded, and most of the area was abnormally dry, while areas in the western portion of the State were under moderate drought conditions. Northwestern counties experienced warm spring weather, and reports from the area noted more producers indicated calving and lambing had begun. Reporters noted there was some wolf kill activity in the area. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 105 percent of median snowfall. Moisture in northeastern counties was minimal last week, and windy conditions were present. Early in the week gusts reached upwards of 40 miles per hour, with sustained gusts in the 20's all week. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crops continued ahead of normal amongst warm, dry conditions. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting progressed well, and potato field cultivation continued last week. Cool season grasses were greening up, and pastures remained in good condition. The high country in southeastern counties was the only area of the State to receive any measurable moisture last week. Most of the district experienced temperatures more than two degrees above average, with average highs in the 50's and 60's last week. As of April 15, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 100 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 96 and 97 percent, respectively.

Planting of the barley crop continued to progress quickly across the State, with 34 percent of the crop planted, compared to last year at 26 percent and the 5-year average of 32 percent. Emergence of the barley crop began last week, with 1 percent of the crop emerged. Onion planting in the northeastern portion of the State continued to advance quickly compared to normal progress, with 29 percent of expected acres planted. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 14 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 20 percent average and 80 percent light. Sheep death loss was 22 percent average and 78 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted .....	34	20	26	32
Emerged.....	1	NA	3	1
Onions				
Planted .....	29	25	3	8
Sugarbeets				
Planted .....	18	7	--	4
Winter wheat				
Pastured.....	5	5	9	11
Jointing.....	18	10	10	16
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	70	66	81	81
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	65	60	80	79

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 .....	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	28	24	12	14
Short .....	25	14	28	30
Adequate.....	43	52	52	53
Surplus.....	4	10	8	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	23	14	19	18
Short .....	26	27	39	32
Adequate.....	47	53	41	49
Surplus.....	4	6	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.....	5	9	10	13
Poor.....	12	15	28	22
Fair.....	21	15	41	32
Good .....	57	56	20	32
Excellent.....	5	5	1	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	6	8	12	12
Poor.....	11	13	26	19
Fair.....	30	26	39	36
Good .....	49	46	20	30
Excellent.....	4	7	3	3
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	4	3	2
Poor.....	7	6	15	8
Fair.....	20	14	44	28
Good .....	56	64	34	56
Excellent.....	14	12	4	6

NA – not available

(-) – zero