



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 21, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures were prevalent across the State, while moisture was contained primarily in northern and eastern counties, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on April 18, drought conditions were present across just under 3 percent of the State, unchanged from last week and down from 44 percent a year ago. Conditions along the eastern plains were downgraded to abnormally dry, with almost 40 percent of the State under abnormally dry conditions, up from almost 32 percent last week. The high country in northwestern and northcentral counties experienced good moisture late last week, with isolated areas receiving more than two inches of moisture and many counties receiving an inch of moisture in areas. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 102 percent of median snowfall. Northeastern counties received above average moisture last week, with most of the district receiving at least half an inch of moisture. The foothills and metro area received more than an inch of moisture during an end of the week storm. Temperatures peaked in the 70's early in the week, then dropped sharply to highs in the 30's over the weekend during a spring snowstorm. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crops continued ahead or normal, while corn planting begun in the area last week. In the San Luis Valley, barley planting continued, and potato field cultivation ramped up last week. Reporters noted that early planted barley is beginning to emerge, and marginal seed potato planting had started. Moisture in the area has been limited, but winter runoff has picked up with some higher priority ditches receiving water. Southwestern counties received limited measurable moisture last week. Temperatures in the area were more than 4 degrees above average all week, with highs in the 60's and 70's. Southwestern counties experienced high temperatures in the 80's early in the week, and wind gusts around 40 miles per hour. Temperatures cooled by week's end, with high temperatures dropping into the 50's and 60's over the weekend. As of April 22, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 94 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 81 and 82 percent, respectively.

Planting of the barley crop progressed well last week, but fell behind the 5-year average, with 45 percent of the crop planted, compared to last year at 40 percent and the 5-year average of 51 percent. Emergence of the barley crop continued among primarily warm conditions, with 15 percent of the crop emerged, compared to the 5-year average of 8 percent. Planting of the corn crop began last week, with 1 percent of the crop planted. Onion planting in the northeastern portion of the State continued to advance quickly compared to normal progress, with 33 percent of expected acres planted. Stored feed supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 12 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 30 percent average, and 69 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 32 percent average, and 67 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	45	34	40	51
Emerged.....	15	1	8	8
Corn				
Planted	1	--	2	4
Onions				
Planted	33	29	8	17
Sugarbeets				
Planted	28	18	8	12
Winter wheat				
Pastured.....	7	5	6	10
Jointing.....	27	18	18	25
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	80	70	87	87
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	70	65	88	88

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	6.2	6.1	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	20	28	20	18
Short	32	25	34	30
Adequate.....	44	43	42	50
Surplus.....	4	4	4	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	23	21	19
Short	27	26	38	32
Adequate.....	54	47	36	47
Surplus.....	4	4	5	2

NA – not available

(-) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	1	NA	1	1
Poor.....	2	NA	20	7
Fair.....	12	NA	38	31
Good	81	NA	38	55
Excellent.....	4	NA	3	6
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	5	10	13
Poor.....	13	12	33	22
Fair.....	25	21	31	29
Good	50	57	25	35
Excellent.....	8	5	1	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	6	7	11
Poor.....	11	11	32	20
Fair.....	33	30	38	33
Good	46	49	19	31
Excellent.....	5	4	4	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	3	--	1
Poor.....	6	7	12	7
Fair.....	21	20	41	27
Good	57	56	40	58
Excellent.....	13	14	7	7

NA – not available

(-) – zero