



# 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 AUGUST 4, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** High temperatures and limited moisture last week continued to stress crop conditions across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for July 30, drought conditions were present across more than 9 percent of the State, up from 8 percent last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across more than 31 percent of the State, a downgrade from the previous week. Conditions in northern and metro counties worsened, with both moderate and severe drought conditions extending. Areas of Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties were rated in severe drought, having accounted for more than 1 percent of the State. Moderate drought conditions were present in Cheyenne and Kiowa Counties. Abnormally dry conditions moved further into Bent, Crowley, Las Animas, and Otero Counties last week. Northwestern counties remained primarily dry last week, with only areas of Chaffee and Park Counties receiving any measurable moisture. Moisture in northeastern counties was scattered, with several counties having received up to a half inch in areas, and only isolated areas received more than an inch. Reports from Kiowa County noted high temperatures and minimal moisture continued to deteriorate already fragile crop conditions. Temperatures were in the 90's most of the week, with reported highs over 100 degrees in many counties. Southeastern counties remained mainly dry last week, and pockets of some counties received upwards of an inch of moisture. Temperatures reached above 100 degrees in several areas, with early week temperatures upwards of 105 degrees in Prowers County. In the San Luis Valley, moisture was scattered in the district. Reporters noted pastures were in good condition for this point in the season, and livestock were doing well. Potatoes continued in the bulking stage and seemed in good condition. The second cutting of alfalfa progressed in the district.

Second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, but sustained slower than average progress, with 53 percent harvested by week's end, compared to 71 percent last year and a 5-year average of 72 percent. Third cutting of alfalfa continued in eastern counties, with 12 percent reported as harvested. Coloring of the barley crop slowed last week, with 70 percent colored by weeks end, behind the 5-year average of 80 percent. Barley harvest advanced slowly but still ahead of average, with 7 percent of the crop harvested. Development of the corn crop continued behind normal, with 72 percent silked, equal to the previous year but behind the 5-year average of 79 percent. Eastern counties reported more acres had moved into the dough stage, with 10 percent of the crop doughed. Thirty-three percent of the dry edible bean crop was bloomed, substantially behind the previous year at 54 percent and the 5-year average of 66 percent. Heading of the sorghum crop fell behind average, with 38 percent headed by weeks end. Coloring of the sorghum crop begun last week, with 2 percent of the crop reported colored, equal to the 5-year average.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 6 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 52 percent average and 48 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 92 percent average and 8 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested.....	53	43	71	72
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested.....	12	7	13	11
Barley				
Coloring.....	70	65	77	80
Harvested.....	7	4	7	4
Corn				
Silked.....	72	50	72	79
Doughed.....	10	5	8	16
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	33	20	54	66
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	9	--	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Headed.....	38	22	37	42
Coloring.....	2	--	1	2

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.....	6.5	6.9	5.6	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	27	3	16
Short.....	31	41	10	28
Adequate.....	40	31	76	52
Surplus.....	2	1	11	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	28	2	19
Short.....	29	37	14	26
Adequate.....	45	32	75	51
Surplus.....	5	3	9	4

NA – not available  
(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor.....	1	1	6	7
Poor .....	8	6	8	11
Fair.....	17	18	22	20
Good .....	65	65	53	54
Excellent.....	9	10	11	8
<b>Barley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	3
Poor .....	3	1	2	6
Fair.....	22	15	16	26
Good .....	51	60	54	45
Excellent.....	24	23	27	20
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	4	5	1	6
Poor .....	15	15	3	12
Fair.....	31	30	20	26
Good .....	41	47	62	44
Excellent.....	9	3	14	12
<b>Dry edible beans</b>				
Very poor.....	--	2	2	3
Poor .....	5	5	6	13
Fair.....	25	20	40	36
Good .....	63	63	47	41
Excellent.....	7	10	5	7
<b>Onions</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor .....	--	5	--	5
Fair.....	45	50	35	28
Good .....	30	20	35	57
Excellent.....	25	25	30	9
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	9	5	7	11
Poor .....	12	14	8	14
Fair.....	32	24	18	25
Good .....	47	50	46	37
Excellent.....	--	7	21	13
<b>Potatoes inside San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	3
Poor .....	5	6	6	10
Fair.....	20	16	18	23
Good .....	60	57	53	47
Excellent.....	15	20	23	17
<b>Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	--	--	--	2
Fair.....	--	--	--	23
Good .....	100	100	100	68
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor.....	12	13	--	3
Poor .....	13	20	1	7
Fair.....	30	28	18	31
Good .....	44	38	73	49
Excellent.....	1	1	8	10
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Very poor.....	--	3	--	1
Poor .....	6	7	1	2
Fair.....	17	14	26	25
Good .....	77	74	55	59
Excellent.....	--	2	18	13
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
Very poor.....	8	1	--	2
Poor .....	30	30	--	9
Fair.....	35	49	4	30
Good .....	25	18	80	52
Excellent.....	2	2	16	7
<b>Livestock</b>				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	4
Poor .....	1	2	1	6
Fair.....	10	15	15	17
Good .....	76	73	68	59
Excellent.....	13	9	15	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero