



# 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 11, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Mostly hot, dry, and windy conditions continued to deteriorate crop and rangeland 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 August 6, drought conditions were present across more than 12 percent of the State, up from 9 percent last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across more than 53 percent of the State, an increase from 31 percent the previous week. Abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought expanded in several areas of the State, leaving only pockets of western, eastern, and San Luis Valley counties not in a drought classification. Extreme drought was present in east Boulder County and severe drought expanded in Jefferson and western Weld Counties. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, received moisture was scattered throughout the State last week. Portions of Jefferson, Elbert, and Conejos Counties received over 4 inches of precipitation. Moisture was more limited in northwestern and southeastern counties. A cold front brought below average temperatures to the eastern half of the State, while western counties remained above average. Reports from Kiowa County noted some corn and sorghum failure due to continued high heat and limited moisture. Area ranchers were utilizing non-emergency CRP grazing to supplement deteriorating rangeland conditions. Cooler late-week temperatures brought short-term relief from the high heat. In the San Luis Valley, reports noted precipitation improved soil moisture conditions but delayed fieldwork activities. Hay production in the area was below average so far. Limited barley harvest in the area began. Crops and livestock generally remained in good condition. Potatoes were being vine killed in preparation for harvest.

Second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, but remained behind average, with 62 percent harvested by week's end, compared to 81 percent last year and a 5-year average of 84 percent. Third cutting of alfalfa continued in eastern counties and began in San Luis Valley counties, with 15 percent reported as harvested. Coloring of the barley crop continued, with 80 percent colored by weeks end, slightly behind the 5-year average of 89 percent. Barley harvest advanced slowly but on pace with the average, with 8 percent of the crop harvested. Development of the corn crop continued, with 83 percent silked, slightly behind the previous year of 87 percent and the 5-year average of 90 percent. Twenty-seven percent of the corn crop was doughed, with southwestern counties also reporting some acreage had moved into the dough stage. Dry beans bloomed remained behind average, but closer to last year at 51 percent bloomed, compared to 63 percent last year and the 5-year average of 81 percent. Sorghum headed progressed well, with 51 percent headed by weeks end. Coloring of the sorghum crop was reported at 9 percent, just ahead of the 5-year average at 5 percent.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 4 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 24 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 55 percent average and 45 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 87 percent average and 13 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.....	62	53	81	84
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested.....	15	12	15	19
Barley				
Coloring.....	80	70	87	89
Harvested.....	8	7	11	8
Corn				
Silked.....	83	72	87	90
Doughed.....	27	10	11	28
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	51	33	63	81
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	20	9	37	8
Sorghum				
Headed.....	51	38	53	63
Coloring.....	9	2	2	5

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	6.5	6.5	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	27	3	15
Short.....	30	31	18	31
Adequate.....	47	40	71	51
Surplus.....	6	2	8	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	21	2	18
Short.....	25	29	17	27
Adequate.....	55	45	76	53
Surplus.....	5	5	5	2

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.....	2	1	6	6
Poor .....	10	8	8	10
Fair.....	17	17	21	19
Good .....	63	65	56	56
Excellent.....	8	9	9	9
<b>Barley</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	2
Poor .....	4	3	3	8
Fair.....	29	22	18	26
Good .....	48	51	48	44
Excellent.....	18	24	30	20
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	2	4	3	5
Poor .....	10	15	5	11
Fair.....	32	31	11	25
Good .....	48	41	58	46
Excellent.....	8	9	23	13
<b>Dry edible beans</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	5
Poor .....	3	5	12	14
Fair.....	16	25	31	33
Good .....	77	63	43	41
Excellent.....	4	7	9	7
<b>Onions</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor .....	--	--	--	4
Fair.....	45	45	39	28
Good .....	30	30	29	57
Excellent.....	25	25	32	10
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	7	9	7	13
Poor .....	9	12	7	15
Fair.....	33	32	15	24
Good .....	48	47	50	36
Excellent.....	3	--	21	12
<b>Potatoes inside San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor .....	5	5	10	9
Fair.....	16	20	20	24
Good .....	58	60	45	46
Excellent.....	21	15	25	19
<b>Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	--	--	2	4
Fair.....	--	--	5	23
Good .....	100	100	93	66
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor.....	14	12	--	4
Poor .....	11	13	1	6
Fair.....	28	30	18	29
Good .....	46	44	80	52
Excellent.....	1	1	1	9
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	15	6	1	1
Fair.....	27	17	26	27
Good .....	58	77	56	59
Excellent.....	--	--	17	13
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
Very poor.....	24	8	--	2
Poor .....	26	30	--	8
Fair.....	17	35	8	28
Good .....	29	25	75	54
Excellent.....	4	2	17	8
<b>Livestock</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor .....	5	1	1	4
Fair.....	20	10	10	17
Good .....	68	76	75	63
Excellent.....	7	13	13	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero