



# COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 19, 2024

Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Barley harvest picked up last week while temperatures remained warm and some areas saw increased precipitation from seasonal monsoon moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for August 13, drought conditions were present across 10 percent of the State, down 3 percent from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across 53 percent of the State, unchanged from the previous week. Moderate drought retracted slightly due to received moisture. Extreme drought was present in east Boulder County, but severe drought retreated in Larimer and Weld Counties. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, varying amounts of precipitation were received across several counties last week. Portions of Elbert and Weld Counties received over 4 inches of rain. Moisture was spottier in northwestern and southeastern counties with some locally heavy amounts reported. Temperatures were generally close to or below average for western counties while eastern counties were above average. Temperatures from Lincoln County south to Pueblo County and counties along the southern border were anywhere from 3 to more than 5 degrees above average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. In northwestern counties, seasonal storms and precipitation helped maintain pasture and rangeland conditions, while reports noted hay yields were below average. Grasshoppers continued to be an issue for producers in western Routt County. Wheat harvest in the area was imminent. Wolf depredations were still a primary concern for local ranchers particularly in Grand, Jackson, and Routt Counties. In northeastern counties, corn silage harvest began. Precipitation in east central counties was isolated but heavy in areas. Yuma County reports indicated storms brought damaging hail again last week. Southwestern counties noted monsoonal moisture limited fieldwork for a few days, but the second cutting of alfalfa generally progressed well. In the San Luis Valley, barley harvest began in earnest. Scattered moisture was received. Reports noted harvest of seed potatoes was ready to begin. In southeastern counties, crops continued to progress while isolated moisture was received.

Second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, but remained behind average, with 75 percent harvested by week's end, compared to 89 percent last year and a 5-year average of 92 percent. Third cutting of alfalfa continued across the State with 20 percent reported as harvested. Barley harvest made good progress in the San Luis Valley, with 25 percent of the crop harvested, on pace with last year at 21 percent and the 5-year average of 23 percent. Development of the corn crop continued, with 48 percent of the crop doughed and 5 percent dented. Corn silage harvest also began and was 11 percent complete by week's end. Dry beans bloomed progressed last week at 71 percent bloomed, behind last year at 80 percent and the 5-year average of 92 percent. Sorghum headed progressed well, with 68 percent headed by weeks end. Coloring of the sorghum crop was reported at 17 percent, ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 1 percent heavy, 49 percent average, and 50 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 3 percent heavy, 78 percent average, and 19 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.....	75	62	89	92
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested .....	20	15	22	31
Barley				
Coloring.....	90	80	93	95
Harvested.....	25	8	21	23
Corn				
Silked .....	91	83	94	95
Doughed.....	48	27	33	45
Dented.....	5	--	5	11
Harvested for silage .....	11	NA	8	4
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	71	51	80	92
Onions				
Harvested.....	2	--	10	3
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	25	20	42	10
Sorghum				
Headed.....	68	51	69	80
Coloring.....	17	9	6	10

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	6.2	7.0	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	10	17	5	17
Short.....	32	30	25	32
Adequate .....	51	47	65	48
Surplus .....	7	6	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	9	15	4	19
Short.....	25	25	17	29
Adequate .....	58	55	75	50
Surplus .....	8	5	4	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.....	3	2	1	5
Poor .....	10	10	5	8
Fair.....	27	17	24	21
Good .....	52	63	60	56
Excellent.....	8	8	10	10
<b>Barley</b>				
Very poor.....	5	1	--	3
Poor .....	7	4	3	8
Fair.....	26	29	18	24
Good .....	47	48	48	43
Excellent.....	15	18	31	22
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	2	2	4	8
Poor .....	11	10	10	13
Fair.....	36	32	20	26
Good .....	43	48	51	42
Excellent.....	8	8	15	11
<b>Dry edible beans</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	4	3
Poor .....	7	3	21	14
Fair.....	14	16	40	32
Good .....	69	77	28	41
Excellent.....	9	4	7	10
<b>Onions</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor .....	2	--	--	4
Fair.....	47	45	37	25
Good .....	32	30	41	62
Excellent.....	19	25	22	7
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	1	7	1	10
Poor .....	6	9	1	17
Fair.....	28	33	27	24
Good .....	56	48	53	39
Excellent.....	9	3	18	10
<b>Potatoes inside San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor .....	5	5	10	8
Fair.....	13	16	20	24
Good .....	57	58	45	46
Excellent.....	25	21	25	20
<b>Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	--	--	2	3
Fair.....	4	--	15	28
Good .....	96	100	83	62
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor.....	6	14	1	4
Poor .....	2	11	5	10
Fair.....	35	28	11	27
Good .....	56	46	82	51
Excellent.....	1	1	1	8
<b>Sugarbeets</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	1
Poor .....	16	15	1	3
Fair.....	37	27	33	28
Good .....	45	58	49	57
Excellent.....	1	--	17	11
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
Very poor.....	14	24	1	3
Poor .....	23	26	1	9
Fair.....	27	17	8	30
Good .....	29	29	68	49
Excellent.....	7	4	22	9
<b>Livestock</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	3
Poor .....	6	5	1	5
Fair.....	23	20	4	18
Good .....	59	68	77	58
Excellent.....	11	7	17	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero