



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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Scattered precipitation and warm temperatures provided ideal conditions for continued crop maturation and harvest activities, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for August 27, drought conditions were present across more than 8 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across just shy of 41 percent of the State, down from the previous week. Moderate drought increased slightly and covers over 7 percent of the State. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, precipitation was focused on western and southern borders, while northeastern counties remained dry. Many areas in Baca, Bent, Las Animas, and Prowers Counties received more than half an inch of rain. Temperatures were below average for southern counties, while northern counties were primarily above average. In northeastern counties, minimal moisture and warm conditions helped crop maturation and harvest progress. Reports from Kiowa County stated ranchers were paying to graze on CRP due to depleted pastures in the area. In the San Luis Valley, barley and alfalfa harvest continued. Reports noted the potato crop has matured well and producers were preparing for harvest. Continued moisture improved pasture quality but had posed issues for alfalfa harvest.

The second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, with 90 percent harvested by week's end. The third cutting of alfalfa continued across the State, with 43 percent reported as harvested, behind the previous year at 50 percent and the 5-year average of 55 percent. Barley harvest picked up speed across the State but remained significantly behind average, with 58 percent of the crop harvested, behind last year at 73 percent and the 5-year average of 75 percent. Development of the corn crop continued, with 65 percent of the crop doughed and 39 percent dented. Corn silage harvest continued significantly ahead of average and was 31 percent complete by week's end, compared to the 5-year average of 14 percent. Dry beans bloomed progressed last week at 84 percent bloomed, behind last year at 95 percent and the 5-year average of 98 percent. Cutting of the dry bean crop began last week, with 1 percent of the crop reported as cut. Onion harvest continued in the northeastern portion of the State, with 32 percent of the crop harvested. Heading of the sorghum crop was almost complete, with 95 percent headed by week's end and coloring of the crop was reported at 34 percent. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat crop continued last week, with 7 percent of intended acres reported planted.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 29 percent average and 71 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 85 percent average and 15 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	90	83	NA	NA
3 rd cutting harvested.....	43	33	50	55
Barley				
Harvested.....	58	38	73	75
Corn				
Silked.....	98	93	99	97
Doughed.....	65	55	84	81
Dented.....	39	21	38	35
Harvested for silage.....	31	22	19	14
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	84	78	95	98
Cut.....	1	--	7	5
Onions				
Harvested.....	32	12	39	16
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	2	--	NA	NA
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested.....	34	30	53	25
Sorghum				
Headed.....	95	80	94	95
Coloring.....	34	24	27	40
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	7	2	1	7

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.....	6.6	6.1	6.7	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	28	20	8	20
Short.....	37	32	32	35
Adequate.....	32	41	58	44
Surplus.....	3	7	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	22	18	4	20
Short.....	30	29	24	32
Adequate.....	43	51	70	47
Surplus.....	5	2	2	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	12	10	5	5
Poor	12	12	9	9
Fair.....	24	22	23	19
Good	47	50	55	59
Excellent.....	5	6	8	8
Barley				
Very poor.....	24	15	NA	NA
Poor	15	11	NA	NA
Fair.....	18	20	NA	NA
Good	35	40	NA	NA
Excellent.....	8	14	NA	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	16	12	2	9
Poor	19	20	6	13
Fair.....	29	30	22	23
Good	34	37	57	44
Excellent.....	2	1	13	11
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	5	5	2	1
Poor	4	5	12	12
Fair.....	6	6	40	30
Good	80	79	41	41
Excellent.....	5	5	5	16
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor	5	5	--	5
Fair.....	55	55	43	26
Good	20	20	45	62
Excellent.....	20	20	12	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	7	7	12
Poor	19	16	8	17
Fair.....	29	26	21	24
Good	39	48	52	38
Excellent.....	2	3	12	9
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	2
Poor	6	5	10	10
Fair.....	20	20	21	23
Good	58	60	45	48
Excellent.....	15	15	23	17
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor	--	--	NA	NA
Fair.....	--	--	NA	NA
Good	100	100	NA	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	18	12	--	5
Poor	17	13	5	10
Fair.....	19	23	12	27
Good	42	51	82	52
Excellent.....	4	1	1	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	8	9	--	2
Fair.....	25	28	22	27
Good	60	55	60	60
Excellent.....	2	3	18	10
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	25	18	--	3
Poor	28	20	--	10
Fair.....	22	21	10	28
Good	24	39	77	53
Excellent.....	1	2	13	6
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	2	1	3
Poor	5	5	1	4
Fair.....	19	17	5	11
Good	61	64	85	69
Excellent.....	12	12	8	13

NA – not available

(--) – zero