



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 8, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures provided ideal conditions for 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 September 3, drought conditions were present across just under 12 percent of the State, up more than 3 percent from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across over 28 percent of the State, down significantly from the previous week. Moderate drought increased and covered over 10 percent of the State, while severe drought was unchanged at just over 1 percent. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, precipitation was focused on the foothills and metro counties, while the rest of the State remained mostly dry. Temperatures were below average in southeastern counties, while the rest of the State experienced temperatures mainly above average. Northeastern counties received minimal moisture last week, and realized temperatures more than 3 degrees above average. Reports from Kiowa County stated that wheat drilling had begun in areas that received rain, while others were waiting on more moisture. In the San Luis Valley, barley and alfalfa harvest progressed, and potato harvest picked up slightly last week.

Second cutting of alfalfa is almost complete, with 95 percent harvested by week's end. The third cutting of alfalfa continued across the State, with 57 percent reported as harvested, behind the 5-year average of 65 percent. Barley harvest progressed well across the State, but remained significantly behind average, with 70 percent of the crop harvested, behind last year and the 5-year average of 88 percent. Corn development continued, with 78 percent of the crop doughed and 52 percent dented. Three percent of the corn was mature by week's end. Corn silage harvest continued significantly ahead of average and was 37 percent complete by week's end, compared to the 5-year average of 25 percent. Dry bean maturation continued last week, with 90 percent of the crop bloomed and 12 percent cut by week's end. Onion harvest continued in the northeastern portion of the State, with 45 percent of the crop harvested. Harvest of potatoes in the San Luis Valley was 5 percent complete, behind the 5-year average of 9 percent. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat crop continued last week, with 17 percent of intended acres reported planted.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 9 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 27 percent average and 73 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 90 percent average and 10 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..... | 95 | 90 | NA | NA |
| 3 rd cutting harvested..... | 57 | 43 | 63 | 65 |
| 4 th cutting harvested..... | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| Barley | | | | |
| Harvested | 70 | 58 | 88 | 88 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Doughed | 78 | 65 | 93 | 91 |
| Dented | 52 | 39 | 54 | 54 |
| Mature..... | 3 | -- | 6 | 8 |
| Harvested for silage..... | 37 | 31 | 24 | 25 |
| Dry edible beans | | | | |
| Bloomed..... | 90 | 84 | NA | NA |
| Cut | 12 | 1 | 24 | 18 |
| Onions | | | | |
| Harvested | 45 | 32 | 44 | 25 |
| Potatoes inside San Luis Valley | | | | |
| Harvested | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| Potatoes outside San Luis Valley | | | | |
| Harvested | 45 | 34 | 62 | 39 |
| Proso Millet | | | | |
| Harvested | 2 | NA | NA | NA |
| Sorghum | | | | |
| Coloring | 56 | 34 | 50 | 59 |
| Mature..... | 3 | -- | 9 | 12 |
| Winter Wheat | | | | |
| Planted..... | 17 | 7 | 14 | 16 |

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 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.3 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 26 | 28 | 7 | 17 |
| Short | 37 | 37 | 28 | 36 |
| Adequate..... | 34 | 32 | 59 | 45 |
| Surplus..... | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 20 | 22 | 5 | 19 |
| Short | 32 | 30 | 18 | 31 |
| Adequate..... | 46 | 43 | 72 | 48 |
| Surplus..... | 2 | 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) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| Very poor | 4 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| Poor | 12 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| Fair | 23 | 24 | 25 | 20 |
| Good..... | 54 | 47 | 53 | 58 |
| Excellent..... | 7 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor | 15 | 16 | 3 | 7 |
| Poor | 20 | 19 | 7 | 12 |
| Fair | 32 | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Good..... | 28 | 34 | 48 | 43 |
| Excellent..... | 5 | 2 | 13 | 10 |
| Dry edible beans | | | | |
| Very poor | 10 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Poor | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 |
| Fair | 13 | 6 | 37 | 33 |
| Good..... | 71 | 80 | 44 | 41 |
| Excellent..... | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 |
| Onions | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| Poor | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Fair | 45 | 55 | 40 | 27 |
| Good..... | 32 | 20 | 42 | 60 |
| Excellent..... | 20 | 20 | 17 | 6 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 12 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Poor | 18 | 19 | 9 | 18 |
| Fair | 32 | 29 | 23 | 26 |
| Good..... | 35 | 39 | 49 | 36 |
| Excellent..... | 3 | 2 | 11 | 8 |
| Potatoes inside San Luis Valley | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | 1 | -- | 2 |
| Poor | 5 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Fair | 20 | 20 | 19 | 23 |
| Good..... | 60 | 58 | 52 | 47 |
| Excellent..... | 15 | 15 | 23 | 18 |
| 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 | 16 | 18 | 1 | 5 |
| Poor | 16 | 17 | 5 | 9 |
| Fair | 30 | 19 | 11 | 29 |
| Good..... | 34 | 42 | 82 | 52 |
| Excellent..... | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Sugarbeets | | | | |
| Very poor | 5 | 5 | -- | 1 |
| Poor | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Fair | 29 | 25 | 25 | 28 |
| Good..... | 56 | 60 | 56 | 58 |
| Excellent..... | 2 | 2 | 18 | 11 |
| Sunflowers | | | | |
| Very poor | 24 | 25 | -- | 3 |
| Poor | 27 | 28 | 1 | 10 |
| Fair | 30 | 22 | 11 | 31 |
| Good..... | 18 | 24 | 83 | 50 |
| Excellent..... | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Livestock | | | | |
| Very poor | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Poor | 5 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Fair | 18 | 19 | 7 | 14 |
| Good..... | 61 | 61 | 84 | 68 |
| Excellent..... | 13 | 12 | 6 | 12 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero