



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 15, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and windy conditions were prevalent 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 September 10, drought conditions were present across more than 15 percent of the State, up almost 4 percent from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across almost 25 percent of the State, down from the previous week. Moderate drought increased and covered over 14 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 limited across the State last week. Isolated areas of Bent, Cheyenne, and Washington Counties received more than an inch of moisture, and the rest of the State remained primarily dry. Temperatures were above average across the State last week, with many eastern counties realizing temperatures more than 8 degrees above average. Northeastern counties received minimal moisture last week, and windy conditions were prevalent. Reports from Kiowa County stated heat, wind, and lack of moisture had delayed wheat drilling for producers in the area. In the San Luis Valley, third cutting of alfalfa had begun, and potato harvest continued.

The third cutting of alfalfa continued across the State, with 69 percent reported as harvested, behind the 5-year average of 72 percent. Barley harvest remained significantly behind average, with 83 percent of the crop harvested, behind last year, at 94 percent and the 5-year average of 95 percent. Corn development continued, with 93 percent of the crop doughed and 65 percent dented. Sixteen percent of the corn was mature by week's end. Corn silage harvest continued significantly ahead of average, and was 50 percent complete by week's end, compared to the 5-year average of 42 percent. Dry bean maturation continued last week, with 95 percent of the crop bloomed and 30 percent cut by week's end. Harvest of the dry edible bean crop began last week, with 8 percent harvested by week's end. Potato harvest continued across the State, with 10 percent of the crop inside the San Luis Valley harvested and 59 percent of potatoes across the rest of the State harvested. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat crop moved quickly last week, with 35 percent of intended acres reported planted.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 5 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 29 percent average and 71 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				
3 rd cutting harvested.....	69	57	69	72
4 th cutting harvested.....	15	1	8	17
Barley				
Harvested	83	70	94	95
Corn				
Doughed	93	78	97	94
Dented	65	52	68	71
Mature.....	16	3	12	17
Harvested for silage.....	50	37	32	42
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	95	90	NA	NA
Cut	30	12	42	38
Harvested	8	--	7	9
Onions				
Harvested	59	45	49	40
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	10	5	10	16
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	56	45	69	54
Proso Millet				
Harvested	23	2	33	47
Sorghum				
Coloring	70	56	74	78
Mature.....	7	3	21	25
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	35	17	26	29
Emerged	3	NA	2	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	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	26	26	15	20
Short	37	37	33	38
Adequate.....	35	34	50	41
Surplus.....	2	3	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	22	20	8	23
Short	36	32	21	33
Adequate.....	41	46	69	43
Surplus.....	1	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	1	4	4	5
Poor	8	12	10	9
Fair	21	23	25	21
Good.....	63	54	51	57
Excellent.....	7	7	10	8
Corn				
Very poor	13	15	5	10
Poor	21	20	15	18
Fair	32	32	26	27
Good.....	28	28	47	39
Excellent.....	6	5	7	6
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	10	10	7	2
Poor	6	4	16	15
Fair	19	13	36	35
Good.....	64	71	34	36
Excellent.....	1	2	7	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	7	12	10	14
Poor	15	18	10	19
Fair	24	32	17	23
Good.....	42	35	58	38
Excellent.....	12	3	5	6
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	1	--	--	3
Poor	6	5	6	11
Fair	20	20	18	25
Good.....	58	60	52	44
Excellent.....	15	15	24	17
Sorghum				
Very poor	25	16	1	4
Poor	19	16	2	10
Fair	22	30	14	30
Good.....	33	34	75	50
Excellent.....	1	4	8	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	5	5	--	1
Poor	8	8	--	2
Fair	28	29	25	28
Good.....	57	56	57	57
Excellent.....	2	2	18	12
Sunflowers				
Very poor	14	24	1	5
Poor	17	27	4	11
Fair	39	30	14	30
Good.....	28	18	78	50
Excellent.....	2	1	3	4
Livestock				
Very poor	2	3	1	1
Poor	5	5	4	4
Fair	17	18	9	18
Good.....	62	61	83	64
Excellent.....	14	13	3	13

NA – not available

(--)- zero