



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 22, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Fall-like weather spread across the State, with some areas reporting the first frost, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for September 17, drought conditions were present across more than 20 percent of the State, up over 4 percentage points from last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across almost 22 percent of the State, down from the previous week. Moderate drought increased, covering over 16 percent of the State, while severe drought was up to just over 3 percent. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, most of the State received precipitation last week. Parts of Archuleta, Costilla, Hinsdale, and Mineral Counties received over 2 inches of moisture. Temperatures were above average across the central and eastern part of the State, where most of the southwestern part was below normal last week. Reports from Kiowa County stated they still need moisture to drill wheat. In the San Luis Valley, potato and barley harvest continued, but moisture received late in the week delayed alfalfa harvest.

The third cutting of alfalfa continued across the State, with 73 percent reported as harvested, behind the 5-year average of 81 percent, with the fourth cutting underway. Barley harvest remained behind average, with 88 percent of the crop harvested, behind last year at 97 percent and the 5-year average of 98 percent. Corn development continued, with 94 percent of the crop doughed and 77 percent dented. Thirty four percent of the corn was mature by week's end. Corn silage harvest continued, but fell behind the average, with 52 percent complete by week's end, compared to the 5-year average of 67 percent. Dry bean maturation continued last week, with 32 percent cut, and 14 percent harvested by week's end. Potato harvest continued across the State, with 22 percent of the crop inside the San Luis Valley harvested, and 58 percent of potatoes across the rest of the State harvested. Planting of the 2025 winter wheat continued last week, with 47 percent of intended acres reported planted and 9 percent of the crop had emerged.

Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 5 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 1 percent heavy, 29 percent average, and 70 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 1 percent heavy, 81 percent average, and 18 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.....	73	69	77	81
4 th cutting harvested.....	18	15	10	24
Barley				
Harvested	88	83	97	98
Corn				
Doughed	94	93	99	98
Dented	77	65	79	84
Mature.....	34	16	25	34
Harvested for silage.....	52	50	62	67
Dry edible beans				
Cut	32	30	61	58
Harvested	14	8	21	20
Onions				
Harvested	62	59	60	59
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	22	10	30	32
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	58	56	77	67
Proso Millet				
Harvested	25	23	54	62
Sorghum				
Coloring	75	70	88	91
Mature.....	36	7	40	40
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	2	NA	NA	NA
Winter Wheat				
Planted.....	47	35	45	46
Emerged.....	9	3	16	17

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	6.3	6.9	6.6	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	34	26	11	19
Short	34	37	35	39
Adequate.....	29	35	52	41
Surplus.....	3	2	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	27	22	5	23
Short	36	36	26	34
Adequate.....	35	41	67	42
Surplus.....	2	1	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	2	1	5	6
Poor	9	8	10	10
Fair	24	21	23	22
Good.....	58	63	54	54
Excellent.....	7	7	8	8
Corn				
Very poor	15	13	5	10
Poor	23	21	12	17
Fair	32	32	24	25
Good.....	24	28	48	40
Excellent.....	6	6	11	8
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	12	10	5	3
Poor	6	6	20	13
Fair	13	19	46	35
Good.....	66	64	28	37
Excellent.....	3	1	1	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor	10	7	7	12
Poor	19	15	8	22
Fair	28	24	19	24
Good.....	33	42	56	35
Excellent.....	10	12	10	7
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	1	1	1	3
Poor	9	6	4	9
Fair	27	20	19	26
Good.....	53	58	55	45
Excellent.....	10	15	21	17
Sorghum				
Very poor	24	25	--	6
Poor	22	19	3	9
Fair	27	22	14	28
Good.....	25	33	77	50
Excellent.....	2	1	6	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	10	5	--	1
Poor	10	8	1	3
Fair	27	28	18	29
Good.....	50	57	63	54
Excellent.....	3	2	18	13
Sunflowers				
Very poor	12	14	--	3
Poor	17	17	4	9
Fair	43	39	13	33
Good.....	27	28	80	49
Excellent.....	1	2	3	6
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	1	2
Poor	5	5	2	5
Fair	17	17	8	19
Good.....	61	62	82	59
Excellent.....	15	14	7	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero