



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 JULY 28, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Winter wheat harvest and maturation of spring seeded crops advanced quickly amid hot and primarily dry conditions across the State last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for July 23, drought conditions were present across almost 8 percent of the State, down from 10 percent last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread across almost 28 percent of the State, an improvement from the previous week. Conditions in northern and metro counties remained primarily unchanged. Areas of Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties were rated in severe drought, having accounted for just over 1 percent of the State. Moderate drought conditions receded in Baca, Kiowa, Lincoln, and Prowers Counties last week. Northwestern counties received spotty moisture last week, with most concentrated in the high country. Reporters noted grasshoppers remained an issue, and depredations continued in the high country. Moisture in northeastern counties was concentrated to a few select counties last week. Logan, Phillips, and Washington Counties received widespread moisture, with some areas getting upwards of two inches. Reports from Kiowa County noted moisture received the last few weeks had assisted in some recovery of spring seeded crop conditions, but more is needed to improve harvest outlook. Winter wheat harvest activity was wrapping up along the eastern portion of the State. Far southeastern counties remained primarily dry last week, and counties closer to the mountain received upwards of an inch of moisture in areas. Isolated pockets in Baca, Las Animas, and Pueblo Counties received upwards of three inches of moisture last week. In the San Luis Valley, reporters noted coloring of the barley crop had progressed quickly but was slowed last week due to smoke and cloud cover. Potatoes were in the bulking stage and seem in good condition. Second cutting of alfalfa has started in the district, with most fields still needing to be baled. Moisture was scattered in the district, although many areas did receive at least half an inch.

Second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, but continued behind the average, with 43 percent harvested by week's end, compared to 53 percent last year and a 5-year average of 58 percent. Third cutting of alfalfa continued slowly in eastern counties, with 7 percent reported as harvested. Coloring of the barley crop continued and fell in line with the average, with 65 percent colored by weeks end. Barley harvest advanced slowly but still ahead of average, with 4 percent of the crop harvested. Advancement of the corn crop continued behind normal, with 50 percent silked, ahead of the previous year at 46 percent but behind the 5-year average of 57 percent. Eastern counties reported more acres had moved into the dough stage, with 5 percent of the crop doughed. Twenty percent of the dry edible bean crop was bloomed, substantially behind the previous year at 37 percent and the 5-year average of 45 percent. Heading of the sorghum crop continued with the average, with 22 percent headed by weeks end. Winter wheat harvested, at 95 percent complete, was remarkably ahead of last year at 72 percent and the 5-year average of 88 percent. Stored feed supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 17 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 40 percent average and 60 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.....	43	33	53	58
3 rd cutting harvested.....	7	5	9	5
Barley				
Coloring.....	65	46	60	65
Harvested.....	4	3	3	2
Corn				
Silked.....	50	29	46	57
Doughed.....	5	1	1	6
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	20	15	37	45
Sorghum				
Headed.....	22	13	21	22
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	95	90	72	88

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	6.0	6.4	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	25	8	14
Short.....	41	33	12	27
Adequate.....	31	37	65	55
Surplus.....	1	5	15	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	28	21	4	15
Short.....	37	33	7	25
Adequate.....	32	41	72	55
Surplus.....	3	5	17	5

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	1	7	7
Poor	6	8	7	9
Fair.....	18	21	20	21
Good	65	65	53	53
Excellent.....	10	5	13	10
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	3
Poor	1	2	2	5
Fair.....	15	25	18	24
Good	60	52	53	46
Excellent.....	23	20	25	22
Corn				
Very poor.....	5	3	5	5
Poor	15	11	4	9
Fair.....	30	26	21	30
Good	47	56	55	46
Excellent.....	3	4	15	10
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	2	2	2
Poor	5	2	5	12
Fair.....	20	15	36	32
Good	63	73	51	45
Excellent.....	10	8	6	9
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	5	5	--	4
Fair.....	50	43	44	31
Good	20	27	33	56
Excellent.....	25	25	23	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	5	7	8	10
Poor	14	12	11	13
Fair.....	24	32	22	27
Good	50	47	40	38
Excellent.....	7	2	19	12
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	2
Poor	6	5	10	9
Fair.....	16	20	23	24
Good	57	60	44	48
Excellent.....	20	15	22	17
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	2
Fair.....	--	--	5	24
Good	100	100	95	67
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	13	9	--	2
Poor	20	18	7	7
Fair.....	28	25	15	33
Good	38	47	62	50
Excellent.....	1	1	16	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	3	3	--	--
Poor	7	5	--	2
Fair.....	14	16	26	27
Good	74	69	57	61
Excellent.....	2	7	17	10
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor	30	30	1	11
Fair.....	49	39	8	31
Good	18	28	74	51
Excellent.....	2	2	17	6
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	3
Poor	2	2	1	5
Fair.....	15	12	26	19
Good	73	73	57	60
Excellent.....	9	12	15	13

NA – not available

(--) – zero