



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2018

Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Fieldwork activities continued on pace last week amidst minimal precipitation, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Northeastern county reporters noted winter wheat continued to be seeded despite dry conditions. Limited corn for grain harvest began last week, but most producers were waiting for the crop to dry down. Livestock remained in good condition but a reporter noted a good deal of baled hay was hauled out as fast as it was harvested, a reflection of short forage supplies and regional drought conditions. In east central counties, producers were harvesting corn for grain but saw a late start because of morning dew. Most winter wheat was noted to be planted and the emerged crop looked good thus far. Lack of precipitation remained a concern, especially for pasture conditions in east central counties. Southwestern counties stayed warm and dry last week with no relief from exceptional drought conditions. In the San Luis Valley, potato harvest and third cutting of alfalfa progressed quickly last week and minimal moisture was received. A reporter noted livestock were being moved off mountain pasture about two weeks early. In southeastern counties, a reporter noted precipitation was minimal and corn for grain harvest began last week. Hay harvest was noted as slow because of heavy dew. Calves were noted as being weaned a little earlier than normal to save grass and allow cows to regain body condition. Statewide, corn was rated 68 percent good to excellent, compared with 65 percent good to excellent last year. Stored feed supplies were rated 8 percent very short, 28 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 77 percent average and 23 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 84 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 hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	94	90	89	90
4 th cutting harvested	45	32	28	33
Corn				
Dented	95	92	93	97
Mature	59	39	40	52
Harvested for grain	11	1	5	8
Harvested for silage	96	88	84	86
Dry edible beans				
Cut	92	87	76	75
Harvested	72	56	52	47
Onions				
Harvested	94	85	78	67
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	54	25	50	48
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	72	65	49	82
Sorghum				
Mature	43	27	25	39
Harvested	9	1	1	5
Spring wheat				
Harvested	95	91	86	92
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	9	6	6	16
Winter wheat				
Planted	67	47	54	65
Emerged	39	21	27	31

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	6.6	3.2	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	18	14	1	7
Short	41	34	13	28
Adequate	41	51	74	61
Surplus.....	--	1	12	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	19	15	2	12
Short	33	27	23	30
Adequate	47	57	74	57
Surplus.....	1	1	1	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	10	9	--	4
Poor.....	19	19	8	9
Fair.....	30	26	24	25
Good	33	38	61	51
Excellent	8	8	7	11
Corn				
Very poor	2	2	1	3
Poor.....	11	10	10	7
Fair.....	19	18	24	25
Good	59	62	48	50
Excellent	9	8	17	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor	28	28	1	6
Poor.....	29	23	13	16
Fair.....	17	23	25	29
Good	23	24	46	41
Excellent	3	2	15	8
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	4	5	10	NA
Fair.....	15	15	15	NA
Good	56	50	55	NA
Excellent	25	30	20	NA
Sorghum				
Very poor	6	3	4	5
Poor.....	8	8	9	13
Fair.....	26	28	20	33
Good	55	57	58	45
Excellent	5	4	9	4
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	3	1	--
Poor.....	9	6	4	3
Fair.....	34	22	14	16
Good	45	49	59	64
Excellent	11	20	22	17
Sunflowers				
Very poor	1	1	1	5
Poor.....	4	3	4	8
Fair.....	29	28	17	28
Good	62	64	68	50
Excellent	4	4	10	9
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	4	2	1	2
Fair.....	25	19	23	19
Good	62	68	71	68
Excellent	7	9	5	11

NA – not available

(--)- zero