



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 AUGUST 2, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Much needed rain greened pastures, but also damaged alfalfa in the southern areas of the state, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Statewide, weather reports indicate that over the past week isolated areas received more than one inch of rain with most of the state receiving only a trace of rainfall. In northeastern counties, dry, windy conditions and cooler temperatures were reported. Irrigated crops continued to mature quickly. Reports indicated concern about the condition of non-irrigated crops, particularly millet and sorghum, and the potential risk for crop failure. Producers expect a better yield from the third cutting of alfalfa, compared to the second cutting. Pasture conditions continued to decline, with livestock producers supplementing feed, culling herds, and planning to wean earlier than usual. Southwestern counties have received much needed rain. However, most of the second cutting of alfalfa was rained on and discolored. Reports indicated barley and potatoes were doing well. While cattle conditions were good, pasture is not in good condition and many livestock producers are seeking alternative pasture since they are short on their grazing leases. In the San Luis Valley, rainfall has greened up pastures and livestock are generally in good condition. Recent rains also discolored much of the second cutting of alfalfa. In southeastern counties, alfalfa harvest has slowed due to rainfall and reports indicated concern for the quality of the alfalfa due to the rain. Pasture grass is beginning to grow. With recent high humidity, corn and sorghum are doing well. According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report, 83.7 percent of the land in the state is experiencing moderate drought or worse conditions (D1-D4), an increase from 74.0 percent last week. The area experiencing extreme drought or worse conditions (D3-D4) is at 26.6 percent, a decrease from 31.8 percent last week. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 6 percent very short, 24 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 78 percent average and 22 percent light. Cattle death loss was 82 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 hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	75	62	72	75
3 rd cutting harvested	9	4	8	11
Barley				
Turning color	88	87	81	80
Harvested	2	--	5	8
Corn				
Silked	84	70	70	75
Doughed.....	16	6	4	6
Dry edible beans				
Blooming	61	41	56	66
Sorghum				
Headed	26	21	34	38

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.....	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	24	27	7	6
Short.....	40	40	23	22
Adequate	34	32	66	67
Surplus.....	2	1	4	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	29	31	5	8
Short.....	39	39	22	21
Adequate	31	29	67	67
Surplus.....	1	1	6	4

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	6	2	3
Poor.....	16	11	5	8
Fair.....	21	17	11	21
Good	47	56	69	56
Excellent	6	10	13	12
Barley				
Very poor	--	--	2	1
Poor.....	1	1	4	3
Fair.....	26	18	15	19
Good	52	60	54	53
Excellent	21	21	25	24
Corn				
Very poor	10	11	--	2
Poor.....	15	17	4	5
Fair.....	30	31	22	20
Good	40	34	63	62
Excellent	5	7	11	11
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	3	4	--	2
Poor.....	23	20	4	7
Fair.....	38	32	35	25
Good	36	43	55	58
Excellent	--	1	6	8
Onions				
Very poor	2	3	--	1
Poor.....	9	5	--	3
Fair.....	28	23	8	21
Good	57	64	89	65
Excellent	4	5	3	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	16	15	1	8
Poor.....	25	25	5	11
Fair.....	35	35	17	24
Good	23	24	65	48
Excellent	1	1	12	9
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	5	1	--	--
Poor.....	12	3	3	4
Fair.....	15	11	27	19
Good	50	58	51	54
Excellent	18	27	19	23
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	6	6	2	1
Fair.....	24	23	17	9
Good	57	57	67	77
Excellent	11	12	14	13
Sorghum				
Very poor	7	8	1	4
Poor.....	19	20	2	5
Fair.....	46	45	33	29
Good	25	21	54	56
Excellent	3	6	10	6
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	1	3	--	--
Poor.....	8	8	--	2
Fair.....	19	25	13	13
Good	63	54	75	69
Excellent	9	10	12	16
Sunflowers				
Very poor	5	4	--	1
Poor.....	31	24	--	3
Fair.....	51	56	23	26
Good	13	15	68	61
Excellent	--	1	9	9
Livestock				
Very poor	3	2	--	1
Poor.....	5	7	3	2
Fair.....	34	23	8	12
Good	55	58	76	73
Excellent	3	10	13	12

NA – not available

(--)- zero