



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 13, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Widespread moisture received last week provided temporary relief to drought conditions but delayed fieldwork and harvest in areas, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Northeastern counties experienced mixed weather including rain, hail, snow, and freezing temperatures. County reports noted no damage yet to crops from the freeze, but producers were still evaluating conditions after the storm. Isolated minor hail damage was reported. Corn silage and sugarbeet harvest was delayed slightly due to received moisture, but progressed where conditions allowed. Received moisture benefited producers preparing to seed fall crops. Precipitation helped settle dust affecting livestock, but producers continued to cull herds, wean calves, and provide supplemental feed in response to drought. East central counties received much needed moisture last week. Harvest of crops continued where conditions allowed and limited harvest of sorghum began. Areas in the district received several inches of significant snowfall. Southwestern counties also received moisture and record-low temperatures were recorded in some localities. In the San Luis Valley, potato harvest made little progress due to rain and heavy snow. Temperatures were cold, but county reports noted snow (up to one foot) provided insulation for potato fields. Evaluation of possible freeze damage was ongoing. Development of fungus was also a concern going forward. Late harvest of the little remaining barley was stopped by snow. In southeastern counties, rain and snow provided beneficial, soaking moisture. County reports noted temperatures were cold, but so far no freeze damage was reported. Statewide, stored feed supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 30 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Sheep death loss was 60 percent average and 40 percent light. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 80 percent average, and 19 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	68	64	67	73
4 th cutting harvested	13	11	22	16
Corn				
Dented	87	62	56	72
Mature	27	10	4	14
Harvested for grain	1	NA	--	--
Harvested for silage	43	27	26	42
Dry edible beans				
Cut	33	16	17	36
Harvested	5	2	7	15
Onions				
Harvested	25	15	14	41
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	11	9	24	16
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	53	30	37	48
Proso Millet				
Harvested	50	32	36	NA
Sorghum				
Headed	95	92	97	97
Turning color	75	56	50	69
Mature	35	15	9	11
Harvested	3	--	--	--
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	8	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	30	17	16	19
Emerged	8	NA	5	5

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.....	4.9	6.9	6.3	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	34	44	9	7
Short.....	38	36	35	33
Adequate	27	20	55	59
Surplus.....	1	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	38	41	10	8
Short.....	39	40	33	30
Adequate	23	19	56	61
Surplus.....	--	--	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	7	7	4	3
Poor.....	10	10	5	7
Fair.....	25	24	9	20
Good	53	51	70	59
Excellent	5	8	12	11
Corn				
Very poor	17	21	1	1
Poor.....	16	18	8	6
Fair.....	27	25	25	21
Good	35	32	56	60
Excellent	5	4	10	12
Dry edible beans				
Very poor	3	3	--	2
Poor.....	22	25	8	7
Fair.....	41	42	50	29
Good	33	29	40	57
Excellent	1	1	2	5
Onions				
Very poor	3	3	--	NA
Poor.....	6	6	--	NA
Fair.....	24	24	8	NA
Good	62	62	89	NA
Excellent	5	5	3	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor	23	25	3	7
Poor.....	34	32	7	12
Fair.....	32	32	24	25
Good	11	11	59	48
Excellent	--	--	7	8
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	6	5	--	--
Poor.....	13	15	10	7
Fair.....	19	24	30	19
Good	46	41	40	53
Excellent	16	15	20	21
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Very poor	1	--	--	NA
Poor.....	6	6	2	NA
Fair.....	20	20	17	NA
Good	58	59	67	NA
Excellent	15	15	14	NA
Sorghum				
Very poor	18	19	1	1
Poor.....	21	23	3	4
Fair.....	42	43	26	24
Good	17	13	61	64
Excellent	2	2	9	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor	3	3	--	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	2
Fair.....	25	25	11	11
Good	54	55	80	71
Excellent	10	9	8	15
Sunflowers				
Very poor	9	8	--	--
Poor.....	34	33	--	2
Fair.....	41	42	23	24
Good	15	16	67	65
Excellent	1	1	10	9
Livestock				
Very poor	2	2	--	--
Poor.....	6	5	3	2
Fair.....	32	30	8	10
Good	51	54	76	77
Excellent	9	9	13	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero