



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 MAY 12, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler than average temperatures were prevalent and varied moisture conditions were seen across the State, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on May 9, drought conditions were present across more than 10 percent of the State, up from last week and down from 30 percent a year ago. Abnormally dry conditions across the State remained unchanged at over 33 percent. A majority of Prowers County was elevated to severe drought, and over 9 percent of the State was rated under moderate drought conditions, up from last week. Northwestern counties received minimal moisture last week, but have enjoyed an overall wet spring. Reporters noted wolf activity continued in Grand and Jackson counties, and another livestock kill was confirmed. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 123 percent of median snowfall. Moisture was minimal in northeastern counties last week, and soil conditions continued to deteriorate. Reports noted adult sawflies were found this week in Weld County and growing larvae were found in Washington County. Conditions across the winter wheat growing area were varied, with the northeastern crop in good condition. The crop in the southeastern portion of the State continued to decline. In the San Luis Valley, rain and snow slowed barley and potato planting. Most of the area received, at minimum, an inch of moisture, with areas in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties getting two inches of moisture last week. Reporters noted that livestock were in good condition, and hay supplies remained adequate for the season. As of May 13, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 112 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 73 and 74 percent, respectively.

Alfalfa harvest began last week, with 1 percent of the crop harvested. Planting of the barley crop was nearing the end, with 90 percent of the crop planted. Barley emergence continued ahead of the previous year's pace, with 60 percent of the crop emerged. Planting of the corn crop progressed quickly last week, with 33 percent of the intended acres reported as planted. Emergence of the corn crop was off to a slower than normal start, with 5 percent of the crop having emerged last week. Potato planting slowed significantly across the State last week, with 39 percent of acres planted in the San Luis Valley and 40 percent reported planted across the rest of the State, both significantly behind the average. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crop continued ahead of normal, with 75 percent of onions and 70 percent of the sugarbeet crop planted. Stored feed supplies were rated 5 percent very short, 14 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 31 percent average, and 68 percent light. Sheep death loss was 2 percent heavy, 65 percent average, and 33 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
1 st cutting harvested	1	NA	1	1
Barley				
Planted	90	85	85	92
Emerged.....	60	52	44	69
Corn				
Planted	33	12	35	42
Emerged.....	5	--	1	7
Onions				
Planted	75	66	64	62
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Planted	39	34	51	65
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Planted	40	30	43	55
Emerged.....	4	--	6	10
Proso millet				
Planted	4	3	6	6
Sorghum				
Planted	1	--	11	7
Sugarbeets				
Planted	70	62	45	66
Emerged.....	29	18	6	17
Sunflowers				
Planted	1	NA	1	4
Winter wheat				
Jointing.....	68	54	50	67
Headed.....	1	--	4	6
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	98	94	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled.....	95	88	NA	NA

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.....	5.5	6.1	3.5	5.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	13	27	10	14
Short.....	28	37	25	26
Adequate.....	50	35	60	57
Surplus.....	9	1	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	7	6	15	19
Short.....	16	22	30	29
Adequate.....	72	71	52	51
Surplus.....	5	1	3	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.....	4	3	3	4
Poor.....	9	8	6	7
Fair.....	24	18	27	23
Good.....	53	58	55	55
Excellent.....	10	13	9	11
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Poor.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	18	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	52	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	28	NA	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	7	7	15
Poor.....	14	14	22	17
Fair.....	26	26	33	30
Good.....	51	49	37	37
Excellent.....	5	4	1	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	6	10	16	14
Poor.....	11	17	25	18
Fair.....	31	28	33	31
Good.....	47	41	23	32
Excellent.....	5	4	3	5
Livestock				
Very poor.....	3	2	2	1
Poor.....	5	5	12	7
Fair.....	26	24	37	25
Good.....	53	60	43	59
Excellent.....	13	9	6	8

NA – not available

(-) – zero