



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2024

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures were coupled with little to no rainfall across much of Colorado during the week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for July 9, drought conditions were present across more than 5 percent of the State, up from 4 percent last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread over 23 percent of the State, an improvement from the previous week. Drought conditions in southwestern counties continued to improve, with only the western border of Delta and Montrose Counties under abnormally dry conditions. Conditions in northern counties worsened with areas of Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties under severe drought conditions. Bent, Las Animas, and Otero Counties were relieved of moderate drought conditions, while they remained in Baca and Prowers Counties. Northeastern counties received scattered moisture, with isolated areas of Washington and Yuma Counties having received upwards of three inches last week. Reporters noted that without more moisture spring planted crop conditions will continue to deteriorate. Among a weekend heatwave and dry conditions, winter wheat harvest activity moved quickly along the eastern portion of the State. In southeastern counties, precipitation was limited last week which allowed winter wheat harvest to move rapidly and near the end in the area. Reports from Kiowa County noted that the forecasted rainfall was needed to prevent the corn, millet, milo, and sunflower crops from burning up. Beef producers in Yuma County were considering weaning calves early as pastures were drying up in several places. In the San Luis Valley, reporters noted warm temps and some wind allowed alfalfa to dry out and be baled. Growth of the potato crop continued to progress well, and barley was maturing quickly according to reporters.

First cutting of alfalfa is almost complete, with 95 percent harvested by week's end, and 18 percent of second cutting completed. The barley crop continued to progress ahead of average with 93 percent of the crop headed and 29 percent colored, both ahead of the previous year and 5-year average. The corn crop has progressed ahead of normal, with 14 percent silked, ahead of the previous year at 4 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. Dry edible bean emergence is almost complete, with 95 percent of the crop emerged and 3 percent bloomed. Emergence of the sorghum crop continued behind the average, while heading of the crop was ahead of normal at 11 percent. Ninety-four percent of the winter wheat crop was mature by weeks end, significantly ahead of the previous year of 73 percent and the 5-year average of 83 percent. Winter wheat harvested, at 76 percent, was staggeringly ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 39 percent. Stored feed supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 23 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 1 percent heavy, 49 percent average and 50 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 2 percent heavy, 90 percent average and 8 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	95	87	93	96
2 nd cutting harvested.....	18	11	11	26
Barley				
Headed.....	93	86	80	88
Coloring.....	29	11	19	19
Corn				
Silked	14	3	4	11
Dry edible beans				
Emerged.....	95	85	97	97
Bloomed.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Emerged.....	90	81	97	96
Headed.....	12	11	--	--
Winter wheat				
Mature	94	88	73	83
Harvested.....	76	51	15	39

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.....	6.8	6.0	5.7	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	24	19	2	16
Short.....	30	33	7	27
Adequate	44	43	69	52
Surplus	2	5	22	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	16	17	2	19
Short.....	26	25	12	29
Adequate	52	53	69	48
Surplus	6	5	17	4

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.....	2	4	8	5
Poor	9	9	9	8
Fair.....	18	28	24	21
Good.....	62	53	50	52
Excellent.....	9	6	9	14
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	3	--	3
Poor	3	5	--	5
Fair.....	33	29	16	23
Good.....	43	45	58	48
Excellent.....	20	18	26	21
Corn				
Very poor.....	7	6	1	2
Poor	12	11	7	8
Fair.....	27	27	18	26
Good.....	47	48	57	48
Excellent.....	7	8	17	16
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	2	2	4
Poor	6	5	5	11
Fair.....	19	20	18	28
Good.....	63	69	71	47
Excellent.....	10	4	4	10
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	3	3	--	3
Fair.....	33	41	42	30
Good.....	40	31	31	57
Excellent.....	24	25	27	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	6	7	2	10
Poor	12	23	2	14
Fair.....	28	24	22	26
Good.....	49	40	40	36
Excellent.....	5	6	34	14
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	5	5	3	5
Fair.....	20	13	17	19
Good.....	60	57	55	53
Excellent.....	15	25	25	22
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	10	3
Fair.....	7	11	10	24
Good.....	93	89	80	65
Excellent.....	--	--	--	8
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	11	5	--	2
Poor	22	18	6	9
Fair.....	20	29	11	31
Good.....	46	45	73	49
Excellent.....	1	3	10	9
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	3	4	--	1
Poor	5	6	--	3
Fair.....	26	28	26	27
Good.....	59	57	57	52
Excellent.....	7	5	17	17
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	1
Poor	20	11	1	6
Fair.....	46	54	5	34
Good.....	31	31	76	52
Excellent.....	3	3	18	7
Livestock				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	1
Poor	5	5	1	5
Fair.....	15	19	12	17
Good.....	70	61	62	59
Excellent.....	8	13	24	18

NA – not available

(--) – zero