



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 JULY 21, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Out of season storms and windy conditions were scattered across the State last week, bringing more than an inch of moisture to several counties, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for July 16, drought conditions were present across almost 10 percent of the State, up from 5 percent last week. Abnormally dry conditions were spread over more than 30 percent of the State, a downgrade from the previous week. Conditions in northern and metro counties worsened with moderate drought conditions moving further into Boulder, El Paso, Jefferson and Weld Counties. Abnormally dry conditions worsened in Weld County and moved into Logan and Sedgwick Counties last week. Conditions in areas of Kiowa and Lincoln Counties were downgraded to moderate drought last week. Custer, Huerfano, Las Animas, Pueblo and Otero Counties saw areas moved into abnormally dry conditions. Northwestern counties received spotty moisture last week, and conditions started to dry out. Reporters noted grasshoppers remained an issue, and depredations continued in the high country. All northeastern counties received moisture last week, with areas of many counties having received upwards of three inches. Isolated areas of Phillips and Washington Counties received close to four inches of moisture last week. Reporters noted storms received last week brought hail, and deteriorated already precarious crop conditions. Winter wheat harvest activity moved quickly along the eastern portion of the State. Reports noted yield ranged from 20 to 65 bushels per acre, depending on the county. Reports from Kiowa County noted that the moisture was beneficial to the corn, millet, milo, and sunflower crops, but more would be needed to improve conditions. Southeastern counties received good precipitation last week, with most of the district getting at least half an inch of moisture. Isolated areas received upwards of three inches of moisture along with some hail. In the San Luis Valley, reporters noted the barley crop is almost fully headed and the potato crop looked to be in good condition. Moisture was scattered in the district, although many areas did receive at least one inch.

Second cutting of alfalfa progressed well last week, but continued behind the average, with 33 percent harvested by week's end, compared to 29 percent last year and a 5-year average of 41 percent. Third cutting of alfalfa had started in far eastern counties, with 5 percent reported as harvested. The barley crop continued to progress ahead of average, with 96 percent of the crop headed and 46 percent colored, both ahead of the previous year and 5-year average. Reports showed barley harvest started last week, with 3 percent of the crop harvested. Advancement of the corn crop fell behind normal, with 29 percent silked, ahead of the previous year at 23 percent but behind the 5-year average of 31 percent. Eastern counties reported minimal acres had moved into the dough stage, with 1 percent of the crop doughed. Fifteen percent of the dry edible bean crop has bloomed, significantly behind the previous year at 22 percent and the 5-year average of 28 percent. Emergence of the sorghum crop was virtually complete, while heading of the crop was ahead of normal at 13 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the winter wheat crop was mature by week's end, significantly ahead of the previous year of 86 percent and the 5-year average of 93 percent. Winter wheat harvested, at 90 percent, was remarkably ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 69 percent. Stored feed supplies were reported as 4 percent very short, 12 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was reported as 1 percent heavy, 39 percent average, and 60 percent light. Sheep death loss was reported as 3 percent heavy, 80 percent average, and 17 percent light.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	33	18	29	41
3 rd cutting harvested.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Barley				
Headed.....	96	93	89	94
Coloring.....	46	29	41	40
Harvested.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Silked.....	29	14	23	31
Doughed.....	1	--	--	3
Dry edible beans				
Bloomed.....	15	3	22	28
Sorghum				
Emerged.....	98	90	NA	NA
Headed.....	13	12	6	5
Winter wheat				
Mature.....	98	94	86	93
Harvested.....	90	76	40	69

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.....	6.0	6.8	5.0	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	25	24	2	13
Short.....	33	30	6	27
Adequate.....	37	44	74	55
Surplus.....	5	2	18	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	21	16	2	18
Short.....	33	26	5	26
Adequate.....	41	52	74	51
Surplus.....	5	6	19	5

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.....	1	2	6	6
Poor	8	9	6	10
Fair.....	21	18	21	21
Good	65	62	54	52
Excellent.....	5	9	13	11
Barley				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	3
Poor	2	3	1	5
Fair.....	25	33	21	23
Good	52	43	54	48
Excellent.....	20	20	23	21
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	7	6	3
Poor	11	12	5	9
Fair.....	26	27	20	28
Good	56	47	55	48
Excellent.....	4	7	14	12
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	2	3	2
Poor	2	6	5	13
Fair.....	15	19	30	31
Good	73	63	56	43
Excellent.....	8	10	6	11
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	5	3	--	3
Fair.....	43	33	44	31
Good	27	40	33	57
Excellent.....	25	24	23	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	6	3	10
Poor	12	12	5	14
Fair.....	32	28	27	27
Good	47	49	40	36
Excellent.....	2	5	25	13
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor	5	5	4	5
Fair.....	20	20	19	21
Good	60	60	53	52
Excellent.....	15	15	23	21
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	2
Fair.....	--	7	10	27
Good	100	93	90	64
Excellent.....	--	--	--	7
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	9	11	--	2
Poor	18	22	6	8
Fair.....	25	20	12	29
Good	47	46	66	51
Excellent.....	1	1	16	10
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	3	3	--	1
Poor	5	5	--	2
Fair.....	16	26	26	29
Good	69	59	64	57
Excellent.....	7	7	10	11
Sunflowers				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	1
Poor	30	20	--	7
Fair.....	39	46	9	35
Good	28	31	70	50
Excellent.....	2	3	21	7
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	2	1	1
Poor	2	5	3	4
Fair.....	12	15	25	18
Good	73	70	60	62
Excellent.....	12	8	11	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero