

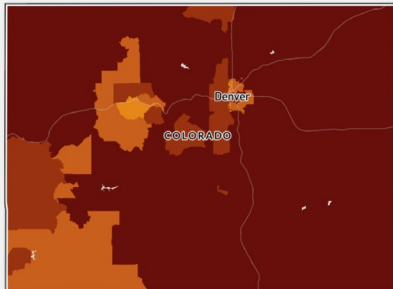
# CLIMATE RISKS GROW FOR COLORADO FARMS

Colorado farmers pride themselves on the state's long and proud agricultural heritage. But hotter temperatures and less predictable weather patterns caused by climate change are drying up fertile farmland and threatening the health and livelihood of farmers and ranchers. Congress can't turn its back on hard-working Coloradans – and the farm bill is the best opportunity to seed a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

## WHY THE U.S. NEEDS COLORADO

Colorado is a top 10 producer of important commodities such as livestock, winter wheat, wool and potatoes. However, these important commodities face climate threats according to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), a screening tool developed in partnership between EDF, Texas A&M University and community-based stakeholders. The CVI provides us with a better understanding of the growing climate risks facing farmers and ranchers by visualizing how drivers of cumulative vulnerability harm communities across the United States.

### COLORADO RANKS #5 NATIONWIDE FOR VULNERABILITY TO EXTREME TEMPERATURES AND DROUGHT



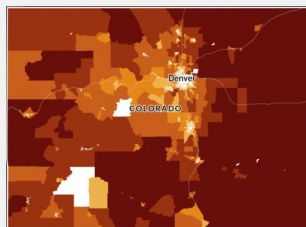
Colorado is ranked **#5** in vulnerability to extreme temperatures.

#### TEMPERATURE

Data from the CVI indicates that census tracts across the state are vulnerable to increases in the number of severely cold and severely hot days. In extreme temperatures, many crops will struggle to maintain their regular growing cycles, potentially increasing crop failures and raising concerns about the health and safety of farm workers.

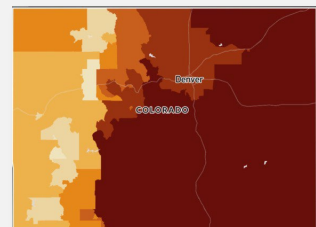
#### AG LAND VALUE

Annual loss of farming land value due to climate change in the U.S. Ranks **10** out of **50** states and DC.



#### DROUGHT

How long and how often droughts occurred, 2021-2022 Ranks **5** out of **50** states and DC.



**These climate vulnerabilities will disrupt agricultural production systems across the state and will have major consequences to the state's economy as well as the national food supply.**

# COLORADO FARMERS NEED CONGRESS TO HELP THEM STAY PRODUCTIVE

Colorado's farmers and ranchers need more technical and financial support to best respond to a changing climate. Many are already implementing cover crops, no-till, split nutrient application and other conservation practices on their farms. Farmers and ranchers know their land better than anyone. They know what they need to do to stay competitive and productive.

Programs administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, help producers adopt conservation practices that improve soil health, water quality and quantity, as well as the resilience of their land. These programs are incredibly popular, supporting the implementation of conservation practices across 4.5 million acres in Colorado between 2019-2023. However, the \$6 billion nationally allocated for them in the 2018 Farm Bill doesn't go far enough. That's why up to two-thirds of applications for these voluntary programs are rejected each year.



## THE SOLUTION

For this farm bill, Colorado farmers need Congress to help them stay productive in a changing climate while also reducing environmental impacts.

Otherwise, we risk the food on our tables.