METROGRO UPDATE

News for neighbors and customers

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Weather takes METROGRO Farm from one extreme to another

After one of its biggest harvests ever in 2025, the harvest in 2026 was one of the least productive seen at the METROGRO Farm.

The 2026 wheat harvest at the METROGRO Farm began on June 27 and ended on July 14. This was one of the earliest starts to the harvest in METROGRO history.

Last year, the winter wheat harvest yielded approximately 40 bushels per acre. This year, many acres were left idle due to yields falling below 10 bushels per acre, making harvest uneconomical.

Late freezes, severe drought, insect damage, and hail were all culprits in this year's less than ideal harvest. Approximately 3,124 acres of wheat were harvested, with an average yield of just over 10 bushels per acre.

Barley performed somewhat better, with 524 acres harvested and an average yield of 16 bushels per acre. In the late spring, 1,200 acres of milo were planted on the south farm. The milo crop is also struggling due to excessive temperatures and lack of moisture.

Staff continue to perform tillage work for weed control to reduce costs and prep fields for fall planting. The farm is beginning the planning stages to plant approximately 13,000 acres of wheat for the 2027 harvest.

The 52,000-acre dryland farm is operated by Metro Water Recovery. Class B Biosolids, known as METROGRO® Cake, are beneficially reused there.



Terragators at the METROGRO Farm during this summer.

Metro encourages Deer Trail community to apply for funds

Metro Water Recovery was proud to once again sponsor this year's Deer Trail Rodeo.

Representatives of Metro's Community Engagement team attended the event and connected with members of the Deer Trail community, sharing information about the METROGRO Farm where we have beneficially reused biosolids for more than three decades.

As a long-time Deer Trail neighbor, Metro is excited to build more relationships with this community.

We continue to encourage nonprofit organizations in the Deer Trail area to apply for sponsorships.

Funding is distributed on a quarterly basis, and nonprofit organizations within or impacted by Metro's service area – including those in the Deer Trail community – are prioritized for sponsorship. Awards of up to $1,500 are available.

Go to www.metrowaterrecovery.com/community/sponsorship-program/ to learn more and apply for funds.

Apply for sponsorship funding

For Events In	Apply Between	Funds Disbursed
Jan. 1–Mar. 31	Aug. 1–Oct. 31	Dec. 1–Jan. 31
Apr. 1–Jun. 30	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	Feb. 15–Mar. 31
Jul. 1–Sep. 30	Feb. 1–Apr. 30	May 15–Jun. 30
Oct. 1–Dec. 31	May 1–Jul. 31	Aug. 14–Sep. 30

Learn more and apply

METRO WATER RECOVERY®

The METROGRO Update is a publication of Metro Water Recovery. If you have questions or comments, please contact:

Community Engagement team

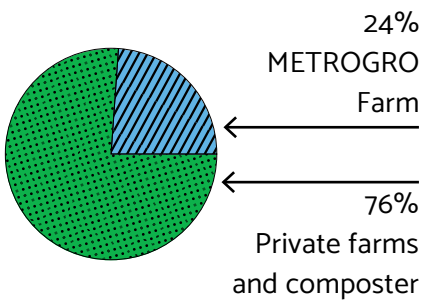
(303) 286-3290

publicinfo@MetroWaterRecovery.com

MetroWaterRecovery.com

Biosolids distribution for 2026

The chart below summarizes the breakdown of biosolids distributed to the METROGRO Farm, private farms, and a private composter for the first eight months of 2026. All biosolids produced during that period at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility (RWHTF) and the Northern Treatment Plant (NTP) were beneficially reused.



Distribution from RWHTF . . . Dry Tons	
METROGRO Farm	4,566
Private farms	14,325

Distribution from NTP . . . Dry Tons	
METROGRO Farm	483
Private composter	1,331

A total of 21,978 dry tons (118,902 wet tons) of biosolids was beneficially reused from January through August.

A total of 20,705 dry tons (101,112 wet tons) of biosolids was beneficially reused from January through August. Dry weight is the solids from biological treatment of wastewater after all water is removed. The average METROGRO® Cake solids content for the first eight months of 2025 is 20.5% for RWHTF and 18.9% for NTP.