

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE  
PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004  
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION  
WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** With the exception of a few isolated eastern locations where above average rain totals were recorded, warm temperatures and dry conditions continued to plague New Mexico, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With harvest for grain underway across a limited area, 84 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 57 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Growers were also busy harvesting some winter wheat acreage for dry hay or silage. Fire danger remained extreme in many counties. Growth of the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex slowed during the week, while the Black Fire nearly doubled in size. Respectively, the fires covered approximately 315,000 and 228,000 acres, with 50 and 19 percent containment. A new fire located in the Peloncillo Mountains, named the Foster Fire, was reported on May 29. Corn planting progressed behind the 5-year average pace, with comments indicating that some fields remained unworked. Conversely, growers were quickly planting cotton and peanuts, with progress for both crops ahead of last year’s pace. Statewide, the first cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 78 percent complete by week’s end, with the second cutting underway in some southern counties. Topsoil moisture was reported as 88 percent very short to short, compared with 75 percent last year and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Additionally, 53 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 61 percent last year and a 5-year average of 47 percent. Overall, supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 85 percent of the cattle herd and 75 percent of the sheep herd being fed. Converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 4.0 inches in an isolated portion of Roosevelt County to merely a trace in several eastern counties. Most of the State was dry. Since January 1, some of the driest counties were in southeastern and southwestern New Mexico, where precipitation has totaled 25 percent of normal or less, affecting large acreages of cotton, dry hay and haylage, sorghum, and wheat, as well as large percentages of the cattle and sheep herds. Statewide, based on accumulated moisture, year-to-date conditions continued to be among the driest ever recorded, and there were currently 33 counties with disaster designations. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 24, exceptional drought (D4) continued to spread, covering 45.8 percent of the State, an increase of 9.1 percentage points. Extreme drought (D3) was present across 44.2 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 7.1 percent. Moderate drought (D1) was present across 2.1 percent. Confined to a shrinking portion of Dona Ana and Otero Counties, 0.7 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). There was no freeze damage reported. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, 12 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 39 percent very short, 36 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 42 percent very short, 17 percent short, and 41 percent adequate, compared with 45 percent very short, 22 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	78	63	74	72
2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested.....	2	NA	8	17
Chile				
Emerged .....	95	86	73	83
Corn				
Planted .....	66	60	77	75
Emerged .....	39	31	48	47
Cotton				
Planted .....	70	56	58	77
Emerged .....	36	31	37	47
Onions				
Emerged .....	95	85	90	NA
Peanuts				
Planted .....	53	42	36	48
Emerged .....	25	16	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	86	74	86	NA
Harvested for grain .....	1	NA	--	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	85	89	84	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	75	80	88	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 .....	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	54	55	48	32
Short .....	34	34	27	35
Adequate.....	12	11	22	32
Surplus.....	--	--	3	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	56	59	54	33
Short .....	37	35	35	38
Adequate.....	7	6	10	28
Surplus.....	--	--	1	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.....	1	1	4	5
Poor .....	8	8	15	5
Fair.....	30	25	32	26
Good .....	51	56	39	58
Excellent.....	10	10	10	6
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	6	2	1
Poor .....	13	13	8	6
Fair.....	41	41	20	33
Good .....	25	25	44	46
Excellent.....	15	15	26	14
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	5	5	--	--
Fair.....	20	20	4	11
Good .....	60	60	32	42
Excellent.....	15	15	64	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	18	20	25	15
Poor .....	35	31	36	32
Fair.....	38	36	21	34
Good .....	8	12	8	14
Excellent.....	1	1	10	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	62	62	36	12
Poor .....	22	22	21	21
Fair.....	4	4	22	31
Good .....	3	3	1	24
Excellent.....	9	9	20	12
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	3	4	2
Poor .....	17	18	17	10
Fair.....	36	36	34	38
Good .....	33	32	30	40
Excellent.....	12	11	15	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	1	15	11
Poor .....	10	12	10	9
Fair.....	36	32	35	32
Good .....	46	48	40	46
Excellent.....	7	7	--	2

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero