

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 AUGUST 29, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Rainfall totals during the week continued to vary depending on location, with larger accumulations confined to central and southwestern counties, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In Union County, mostly dry weather coupled with warm temperatures and high winds left pastures dry and crops in need of moisture in addition to irrigation water. Growers in most counties had either started seeding winter wheat and triticale, or were busy preparing ground to plant. Hay producers used beneficial weather to cut, bale, and store their remaining third and fourth cuttings, while growers in southern counties started the fifth cutting. Reports from Curry County noted that good pasture conditions had ranchers looking to restock their herds, although replacement cattle were in short supply and high demand. Statewide, 36 percent of the State’s pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 55 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 39 percent. Ranchers continued to move yearlings off of summer grazing ground. During the past week, converted moisture totals ranged from about 10 inches in a few isolated locations to merely a trace in several counties along the eastern and northern borders of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 24, drought-free conditions existed across an area equal to 13.6 percent of the State, up slightly from last week. Abnormal dryness covered 10.7 percent of the State. Following additional rainfall, moderate drought (D1) increased to cover 20.7 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) fell to 32.5 percent. Extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought were present across 22.2 and 0.4 percent of the State, respectively, leaving collectively, about 27,388 square miles still affected by extreme and exceptional drought. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 69 percent short to very short, compared with 91 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 61 percent. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light and 1 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 3 percent light and 5 percent moderate. Pecan nut set was reported as 5 percent light and 95 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 18 percent very short, 23 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus, compared with 15 percent very short, 44 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 19 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 26 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 33 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested .....	97	89	80	NA
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	72	58	61	71
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	4	NA	11	30
Chile				
Green harvested.....	55	46	52	52
Corn				
Silked .....	92	89	83	NA
Doughed.....	67	52	60	58
Dented .....	33	27	36	25
Mature .....	2	1	NA	NA
Harvested for silage.....	10	8	NA	NA
Cotton				
Setting bolls.....	69	57	90	76
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	1	NA	6	10
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	45	48	74	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	63	68	66	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 .....	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	33	37	39	19
Short.....	36	31	52	42
Adequate .....	27	28	9	35
Surplus .....	4	4	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	36	43	46	23
Short.....	36	31	46	37
Adequate .....	26	24	8	37
Surplus .....	2	2	--	3

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.....	2	2	2	4
Poor .....	8	10	4	7
Fair.....	25	31	34	26
Good .....	33	30	50	51
Excellent .....	32	27	10	12
Chile				
Very poor.....	1	1	6	NA
Poor .....	10	10	8	NA
Fair.....	19	19	32	NA
Good .....	44	44	42	NA
Excellent .....	26	26	12	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	2
Poor .....	5	5	1	5
Fair.....	39	39	40	37
Good .....	36	32	28	38
Excellent .....	20	24	30	18
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	2
Poor .....	19	19	21	16
Fair.....	41	41	54	40
Good .....	31	31	15	32
Excellent .....	9	9	5	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	15	20	10
Poor .....	26	25	35	29
Fair.....	40	38	32	37
Good .....	19	16	8	20
Excellent .....	5	6	5	4
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	1
Poor .....	9	9	20	9
Fair.....	32	40	33	60
Good .....	59	51	42	30
Excellent .....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor .....	5	5	1	1
Fair.....	6	7	27	9
Good .....	89	88	72	62
Excellent .....	--	--	--	28
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	6	8	11	3
Poor .....	8	8	7	7
Fair.....	21	21	44	41
Good .....	45	47	30	42
Excellent .....	20	16	8	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	19	24	15	8
Poor .....	10	13	11	7
Fair.....	25	21	25	28
Good .....	40	37	46	52
Excellent .....	6	5	3	5
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				