

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 3, 2017

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** December was an unusually warm month for much of New Mexico, with above average temperatures dominating all areas except a few locations in the northeast, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistical Service, USDA. Specifically, average temperatures varied from -3 degrees to 7 degrees above normal. Daytime highs ranged from 45 degrees at Eagle Nest to 77 degrees at Antelope Wells and Carlsbad. Overnight lows varied from -19 degrees at Eagle Nest to 25 degrees at NMSU. Monthly moisture totals varied drastically depending on location, with the southwest accumulating above average precipitation to help replenish depleted soil moisture levels that were affected by an extremely dry 2016. The largest precipitation total was reported at Gila Hot Spring, where 2.99 inches of moisture fell during December. Additionally, Animas, Chama, Cloudcroft, and Redrock also recorded over 2 inches of precipitation during the month. Conversely, much of the northeast was extremely dry when compared with normal. Comments from Union County indicated that strong winds coupled with dry weather led to dusty conditions in many wheat pastures resulting in sick calves. In Curry County, reports suggested that wheat condition had declined rapidly in late-December, forcing many producers that were grazing wheat fields to reduce their stocking rates, find additional pastures, sell their cattle, or move them to feed yards. Statewide, the winter wheat crop condition was reported as 46 percent very poor or poor, a decline of 23 percentage points from ratings at the end of November, and 46 percentage points below last year at this time. Topsoil moisture conditions were reported as 37 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 87 percent last year. Producers in Dona Ana County were able to harvest 100 percent of the cabbage crop during the month, while excessive rainfall was slowing the pecan harvest. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4 percent very short, 12 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 28 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

**Note:** Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 30, 2017; for February on Monday, February 27, 2017; and for March on Monday, March 27, 2017.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Red harvested .....	99	87	NA	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain .....	100	65	100	NA
Cotton				
Harvested.....	92	87	100	NA
Pecans				
Harvested.....	52	30	100	NA
Sorghum				
Harvested.....	99	54	NA	NA
Livestock receiving supplemental feed				
Cattle and calves.....	81	53	86	NA
Sheep and lambs.....	71	65	78	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short .....	14	12	3	NA
Short .....	49	55	10	NA
Adequate.....	34	31	63	NA
Surplus.....	3	2	24	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	13	11	4	NA
Short .....	40	36	11	NA
Adequate.....	47	52	83	NA
Surplus.....	--	1	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### CROP, LIVESTOCK, AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pecan				
Very poor .....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Fair.....	3	6	NA	NA
Good .....	82	48	NA	NA
Excellent .....	15	46	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	8	--	--	NA
Poor.....	38	23	--	NA
Fair.....	46	36	21	NA
Good .....	5	29	59	NA
Excellent .....	3	12	20	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor .....	2	2	1	NA
Poor.....	4	4	2	NA
Fair.....	34	35	23	NA
Good .....	55	51	56	NA
Excellent .....	5	8	18	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor .....	11	12	16	NA
Poor.....	17	13	19	NA
Fair.....	16	19	14	NA
Good .....	56	49	49	NA
Excellent .....	--	7	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

New Mexico's weather data can be accessed at the following:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_Mexico/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2016/NM\\_Weather\\_12312016.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/NM_Weather_12312016.pdf)