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
January 3, 2022

Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry, windy December weather led to worsening conditions during the month, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Row crop growers used the dry weather to wrap up the chile, corn, and cotton harvests during the month. The pecan harvest ended the month behind last year's pace. Pastures in Colfax and Union Counties were bleak, with the grass eaten down to the dirt. In Union County, the first measurable moisture in four months was received on New Year's Day, with snow accumulations of 1-3 inches reported. Along with the moisture, high winds led to blizzard-like conditions. Across the State, livestock were grazing corn and sorghum stalks, recently sown winter wheat fields, and whatever pasture grass was available. The winter wheat crop showed signs of drought and grazing stress. Statewide, 41 percent of the wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 49 percent last year. During the past month, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 8 inches to merely a trace, with some locations remaining dry. Although some precipitation data was missing, the heavier accumulations were noted in the mountainous areas of northern New Mexico. While monthly moisture totals in portions of several northwestern counties were above average, the vast majority of the State saw rain and snow totals well below normal. Average temperatures during December were warmer than normal across the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 28, drought was once again present across the entire State, with extreme drought (D3) noted on 20.9 percent. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 54.8 percent of New Mexico's land, while moderate drought (D1) was present on 22.1 percent. Another 2.2 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). At this point, the State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 9 percent very short, 25 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 8 percent very short, 31 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus on November 28. Stock water supplies were reported as 24 percent very short, 30 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 19 percent very short, 36 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on November 28.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 24, 2022; for February on Tuesday, February 22, 2022; and for March on Monday, March 28, 2022.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Chile				
Red harvested...	98	90	97	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain..	99	85	99	NA
Cotton				
Harvested..	99	64	99	NA
Pecans				
Harvested..	70	30	87	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed............................	69	42	87	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed............................	61	59	85	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	32	40	58	NA
Short	48	41	32	NA
Adequate	20	17	6	NA
Surplus	--	2	4	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	31	41	59	NA
Short	49	42	31	NA
Adequate	20	16	6	NA
Surplus	--	1	4	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pecans				
Very poor	10	17	--	NA
Poor	15	16	3	NA
Fair	15	7	7	NA
Good	45	50	90	NA
Excellent	15	10	--	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	5	9	15	NA
Poor	24	15	22	NA
Fair	30	23	14	NA
Good	25	31	28	NA
Excellent	16	22	21	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	5	18	NA
Poor	17	9	12	NA
Fair	33	34	36	NA
Good	38	35	17	NA
Excellent	10	17	17	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	5	13	39	NA
Poor	16	8	11	NA
Fair	30	38	18	NA
Good	45	39	29	NA
Excellent	4	2	3	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero