

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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite rainfall that covered a wider portion of the State during the week, producers stayed active in their fields harvesting chile and hay, and seeding winter wheat acreage, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Total moisture accumulations were on the lower side for many areas which allowed nearly a full week of days suitable for fieldwork. With lesser rainfall amounts, soil moisture levels and pasture conditions declined when compared with recent weeks. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 45 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 51 percent last week, 32 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 40 percent, while 30 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 39 percent last week, 19 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 24 percent. Reports from Union County indicated both wide-ranging rainfall totals and temperature swings during the week, as growers were busy harvesting hay grazer. Overall, this year’s green chile harvest was nearing completion well ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. A limited amount of red chile was harvested by week’s end. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from over 2 inches to only a trace or none across large portions of eastern New Mexico. Widespread portions of many southwestern counties saw accumulations between 1 and 2 inches during the week. Despite an active monsoon that has delivered more than 10 inches of rainfall to large a large percentage of the State, year-to-date precipitation totals remained well below average for much of New Mexico, with moisture totals across several southeastern counties at or below 50 percent of normal. Additionally, there were isolated areas in several counties where yearly rainfall was at or below 25 percent of normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 13, drought conditions continued to show some week-to-week improvement. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4), while the area affected by extreme drought (D3) was reduced to 7.1 percent. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 39.7 percent of New Mexico, a decrease of 9.5 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought (D1) was increased to 37.4 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) accounted for 14.9 percent. Drought-free conditions, at 0.9 percent, maintained their hold in Dona Ana and Otero Counties. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light, 4 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 99 percent moderate and 1 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 37 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 32 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 19 percent very short, 34 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 17 percent very short, 25 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
4 th cutting harvested	88	75	95	NA
5 th cutting harvested	34	20	38	52
Chile				
Green harvested	94	86	78	77
Red harvested	9	--	NA	NA
Corn				
Doughed	87	77	94	86
Dented	36	21	78	69
Mature	1	NA	39	38
Harvested for silage	13	8	60	60
Cotton				
Setting bolls	93	87	97	NA
Bolls opening	18	6	10	26
Winter wheat				
Planted	24	19	43	53
Emerged	9	1	23	26
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	48	50	35	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	25	15	45	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	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	12	10	33	23
Short	43	39	35	37
Adequate	43	49	26	37
Surplus	2	2	6	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	23	18	38	29
Short	53	49	36	36
Adequate	23	32	22	33
Surplus	1	1	4	2

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	1	4	4
Poor	9	6	12	9
Fair	25	29	30	24
Good	45	50	30	50
Excellent.....	19	14	24	13
Corn				
Very poor.....	4	3	--	1
Poor	6	4	1	3
Fair	18	25	45	37
Good	27	23	26	33
Excellent.....	45	45	28	26
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	4	--	2
Poor	31	27	18	13
Fair	38	34	43	43
Good	22	25	32	35
Excellent.....	4	10	7	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	3	9	11
Poor	30	26	24	27
Fair	36	32	48	38
Good	20	29	18	19
Excellent.....	10	10	1	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	7	7	9	12
Fair	75	75	32	50
Good	13	13	59	37
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	--
Poor	5	5	9	3
Fair	10	15	12	10
Good	44	38	78	71
Excellent.....	40	41	1	16
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	4	3
Poor	6	5	5	8
Fair	36	30	30	37
Good	36	40	40	39
Excellent.....	20	23	21	13
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	7	7
Poor	2	1	10	8
Fair	35	30	40	32
Good	57	60	40	48
Excellent.....	6	9	3	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero