



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



WEEKLY CROP & WEATHER

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USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Crop Weather

Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm, or by email (1-800-530-8810 for information)

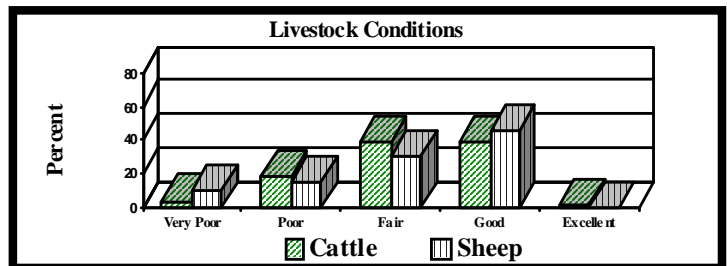
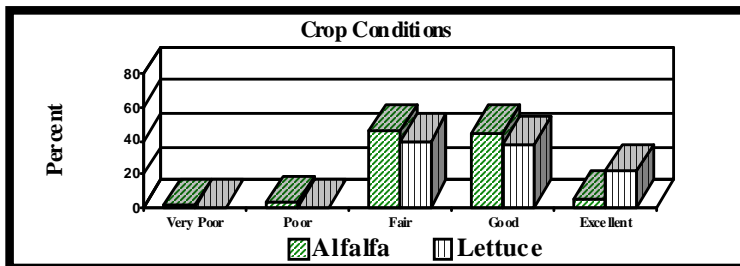
CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 17, 2011

NEW MEXICO: Alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to good. Cotton was 29% planted. Sorghum was 2% planted. Winter wheat was mostly very poor; with 53% of the total wheat grazed. Lettuce condition ranged from fair to excellent. Chile was mostly fair; with 85% planted. Onion conditions were mostly good. Cattle conditions were mostly fair to good. Sheep conditions were mostly good to fair.

Range and pasture conditions were mostly fair to poor. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Topsoil moisture was 65% very short, 28% short and 7% adequate. Wind damage was 12% light, 21% moderate and 7% severe. Freeze damage was 6% light.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS					
Crop	Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
Alfalfa	1 st Cutting	8	--	11	11
Chile	Planted	85	73	73	78
Corn	Planted	3	1	--	8
Cotton	Planted	29	19	32	15
Sorghum	Planted	2	1	3	2
Winter	Grazed	53	53	43	34

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES					
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	3	46	45	5
Chile	--	--	80	12	8
Lettuce	--	--	40	38	22
Onion	--	2	21	77	--
Winter Wheat	54	10	17	18	1
Cattle	4	18	39	39	0
Sheep	10	15	30	45	--



COUNTY REPORTER COMMENTS:

Rio Arriba: High winds all week. Some precipitation in the higher mountains on 4/14. **Sandoval:** Adequate H2O for stock. Some freeze damage to fruit trees. **Santa Fe:** High winds all week. **Taos:** This week has been very windy, causing the current dry conditions to increase. Pastures remain dormant, but are starting to show some green grass in its early stages. **Curry:** Very windy conditions again this week which hampered field work, livestock work and all phases of agriculture. More range fires with high wind conditions destroyed more rangeland and cost an undetermined amount of money as well as time for firefighters. Wheat in dire need of precipitation, both dryland and irrigated. Very limited land preparation occurring for planting. Spraying very limited. The main activity for livestock producers is branding and feeding supplements. Some producers still selling off poor producers and older animals. Hay fields showing limited green and very light growth. **De Baca:** This week has been very windy - pastures are very dry. One pasture wildfire reported April 11th at northeast part of county - was contained the same day. Irrigating crops, watching for bugs. Calving. **Guadalupe:** Very Dry pasture conditions. High Winds on Thursday. No Moisture. Hopefully soon. Livestock are doing well due to the heavy supplemental feeding of hay and feed. Farmers are preparing their fields and planting. **Harding:** Dry and Windy. **Grant:** Extreme drought conditions continue with supplemental feeding and hauling of water on some ranches. Fire potential is extremely high with extreme dry conditions and high winds. Spring branding has started on some ranches. **Chaves:** Very dry. High winds. **Eddy:** Drought, high winds, no moisture in county year to date. No measurable precipitation since September 25, 2010. **Carlsbad:**

Current Argus stated "National Weather Service in Midland say their weather data shows the drought in Eddy County and the surrounding region is on par with the Dust Bowl of 1930's." 180 day without meaningful precipitation (6 months). Fire danger high to extreme on range land. Wind damage to chile. **Lea:** Field preparation and planting. Working calves. Livestock in descent condition. D2 drought status with great wildfire concerns. Planting continues. High wind making it difficult. **Otero/Lincoln:** Heavy supplemental feeding of livestock on rangeland reported. High feed cost and fuel costs affecting ag producers. Cattle producers selling off some cattle.

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	8	70	22	--
Northeast	81	19	--	--
Southwest	75	19	6	--
Southeast	66	27	7	--
State Current	65	28	7	--
State-Last Week	68	25	7	--
State-Last Year	5	33	56	6
State-5-Yr Avg.	36	31	31	2

