

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 MAY 15, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Dry, warm, and windy weather continued to dominate New Mexico for another week, with the only measurable moisture noted in a limited number of eastern counties, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures during the week were well above average in most locations, with daytime highs climbing above 100 degrees in portions of eastern New Mexico. Fire danger was extreme, as another new fire – the Black Fire – was discovered on May 13, and had grown to roughly 1,200 acres by Sunday. Additionally, the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex has grown to be the largest in the State’s history, covering almost 300,000 acres with 27 percent containment. Where conditions allowed, row crop producers stayed busy planting row crops. Where necessary, ranchers were hauling water to their livestock due to natural water sources running dry. Comments from San Juan County noted that soil moisture was very limited, although production in irrigated hay fields was good. Statewide, the first cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 48 percent complete by week’s end, with 69 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 89 percent very short to short, compared with 89 percent last year and a 5-year average of 72 percent. Additionally, 51 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 65 percent last year and a 5-year average of 45 percent. Reports from Union County indicated that pastures in the area were wind-blown, with virtually nonexistent grass growth. Some pasture grasses were dying. Overall, supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 91 percent of the cattle herd being fed. With the only measurable precipitation received during the week confined to limited portions of Lea and Roosevelt Counties, widespread dryness continued to plague New Mexico. Converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 3.0 inches to merely a trace. Since January 1, some of the driest counties were in southeastern New Mexico, where precipitation has totaled 25 percent of normal or less, affecting large acreages of cotton, dry hay and haylage, sorghum, and wheat, as well as large percentages of the cattle and sheep herds. Statewide, based on accumulated moisture, year-to-date conditions have been among the driest ever recorded, and there were currently 33 counties with disaster designations. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 10, exceptional drought (D4) stabilized compared with last week, covering 24.7 percent of the State. Extreme drought (D3) was present across 54.4 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 16.8 percent. Moderate drought (D1) was mostly steady on 3.1 percent. Confined to a very small portion of Dona Ana and Otero Counties, 1.1 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 18 percent light, 13 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 20 percent very short, 27 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 39 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 26 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 45 percent very short, 18 percent short, and 37 percent adequate, compared with 41 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 29 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	48	23	53	51
Chile				
Emerged .....	79	70	55	63
Corn				
Planted .....	48	38	54	55
Emerged .....	15	8	22	23
Cotton				
Planted .....	48	43	35	55
Emerged .....	23	11	21	29
Onions				
Planted .....	95	85	94	96
Emerged .....	70	60	78	83
Peanuts				
Planted .....	29	15	4	16
Emerged .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	54	36	65	82
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	93	90	93	93
Receiving supplemental feed.....	91	88	90	74
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	70	70	92	65

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 .....	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	56	53	51	35
Short .....	33	37	38	37
Adequate.....	11	10	10	27
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	58	56	60	34
Short .....	34	37	34	39
Adequate.....	8	7	5	26
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1

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.....	1	1	10	5
Poor .....	7	8	3	3
Fair.....	23	23	35	29
Good .....	61	61	42	56
Excellent.....	8	7	10	7
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	6	2	--
Poor .....	13	13	8	5
Fair.....	41	41	18	33
Good .....	25	25	45	47
Excellent.....	15	15	27	15
Onions				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	--
Poor .....	15	15	--	--
Fair.....	40	40	--	10
Good .....	25	25	27	43
Excellent.....	15	15	73	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	16	18	22	11
Poor .....	35	37	43	34
Fair.....	37	35	28	36
Good .....	11	10	7	17
Excellent.....	1	--	--	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	59	54	36	11
Poor .....	26	31	19	22
Fair.....	4	7	17	31
Good .....	3	5	13	27
Excellent.....	8	3	15	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	4	10	3
Poor .....	18	22	12	10
Fair.....	42	40	44	41
Good .....	33	30	19	39
Excellent.....	5	4	15	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	4	1	14	6
Poor .....	9	4	8	7
Fair.....	26	25	28	35
Good .....	49	55	41	49
Excellent.....	12	15	9	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero