

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
 November 22, 2021

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 21, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry, windy weather continued to dominate much of New Mexico, leading to worsening soil moisture levels and drought conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With virtually all of the 2022 winter wheat crop emerged, 57 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 10 percent last year and a 5-year average of 48 percent. Reports from Union County noted that where water was available, the wheat crop looked good; however, fields without water were on the verge of failing if beneficial moisture did not arrive soon. Statewide, growers used nearly a full week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 20 percent of the cotton crop. At 51 percent complete, cotton harvest was approximately 2 weeks behind last year's pace. Reporter comments indicated that ranchers were still evaluating the availability of their normal winter grazing grounds against herd size, with many opting to cull additional animals. Statewide, 41 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 54 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 37 percent. During the past week, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – remained extremely limited, with measurable moisture confined to portions of counties along the western border. Accumulations were reported at 0.01 inch or less. Average temperatures continued to be warmer than normal for much of the State. Overnight lows were warmer than last week for most locations, although much of Rio Arriba and Taos Counties continued to record low temperatures that were well below freezing. Additionally, a hard freeze was noted in Union County. According to the United States Drought Monitor for November 16, drought-free conditions were virtually non-existent, with only a very small area in southern Otero County rated in the category. The persistently dry weather led to worsening conditions, with a noticeable reduction in abnormally dry area (D0), to 17.1 percent, and an increase in moderate drought (D1), to 31.2 percent. Severe drought (D2) and extreme drought (D3) were unchanged, covering 40.3 and 11.2 percent of New Mexico, respectively. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 81 percent short to very short, compared with 81 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 60 percent. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light and 1 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 11 percent light and 4 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 9 percent very short, 32 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus, compared with 20 percent very short, 48 percent short, and 32 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 18 percent very short, 35 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 24 percent very short, 47 percent short, and 29 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
6 th cutting harvested	91	80	93	NA
Chile				
Red harvested	87	82	90	84
Corn				
Harvested for grain	75	60	84	73
Cotton				
Bolls opening	98	94	NA	NA
Harvested	51	31	71	69
Peanuts				
Harvested	95	86	94	NA
Pecans				
Harvested	25	22	5	18
Winter wheat				
Emerged	96	93	91	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	42	34	82	57
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	53	50	85	62

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.....	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	41	42	32	17
Short.....	40	37	49	43
Adequate.....	16	19	16	38
Surplus.....	3	2	3	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	42	41	40	20
Short.....	41	39	45	39
Adequate.....	16	19	13	40
Surplus.....	1	1	2	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)
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	17	15	NA	NA
Fair.....	37	39	NA	NA
Good.....	43	45	NA	NA
Excellent.....	3	1	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	20	21	24	11
Poor.....	21	20	30	26
Fair.....	35	33	39	41
Good.....	20	20	6	19
Excellent.....	4	6	1	3
Pecans				
Very poor.....	15	13	--	--
Poor.....	17	18	6	3
Fair.....	8	10	32	12
Good.....	53	57	62	55
Excellent.....	7	2	--	30
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	7	4	1	1
Poor.....	14	11	66	24
Fair.....	22	19	23	27
Good.....	32	37	4	33
Excellent.....	25	29	6	15
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	4	9	3
Poor.....	9	8	13	8
Fair.....	29	25	44	34
Good.....	38	40	26	44
Excellent.....	20	23	8	11
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	11	9	2	6
Poor.....	6	9	18	12
Fair.....	40	32	45	34
Good.....	41	47	35	45
Excellent.....	2	3	--	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero