

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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Contact: Bill Meyer  
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION  
WEEK ENDING MAY 8, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Measurable moisture was confined to isolated areas during the week, doing little to help improve growing conditions for crops or grazing conditions for livestock, 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. High winds were also present. Where conditions allowed, row crop producers stayed busy planting row crops. Reports from Union County noted that corn planting was progressing slowly, with many fields not yet prepared for planting. This could indicate that not all intended corn acreage will be planted this year. The first cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 23 percent complete Statewide, leaving progress roughly 1 week behind last year. Growers in northern counties should start harvesting their first cutting of alfalfa in a few weeks, although a large portion of the hay in the northeastern counties was reported in fair to poor condition. The hot, dry, windy weather caused increased fire danger for much of the State, with a new fire starting late Sunday night, May 8, into Monday morning. Fires already burning across New Mexico spread, although some increases in containment were noted. The largest fire complex, the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak Fire, now covered approximately 190,000 acres with over 40 percent containment. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 90 percent very short to short, compared with 89 percent last year and a 5-year average of 72 percent. Additionally, 55 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. Supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 90 percent of the cattle herd being fed. In San Juan County, comments indicated that natural stock water supplies were mostly dry, so ranchers were busy hauling water to meet livestock needs. With most of the precipitation confined to isolated portions of counties located along the State’s eastern border, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 1.0 inch to merely a trace. The vast majority of the State remained dry. Since January 1, precipitation in some southern and western counties has totaled 5 percent of normal or less, leaving production conditions, whether for crops or livestock, extremely dire. Statewide, measured precipitation since January 1 totaled 2.5 inches or less across most areas. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 3, exceptional drought (D4) continued to spread, up 8.9 percentage points from last week to cover 24.6 percent of the State, following unrelentingly dry weather. Extreme drought (D3) also increased when compared with a week ago, now present across 54.4 percent of New Mexico. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 16.7 percent of the State’s land, while moderate drought (D1) was steady on 3.2 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. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 20 percent light, 14 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 25 percent short, 49 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 47 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 19 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 48 percent very short, 20 percent short, and 32 percent adequate, compared with 48 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 23 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 .....	23	13	38	40
Chile				
Planted .....	95	88	79	86
Emerged .....	70	63	45	55
Corn				
Planted .....	38	30	43	44
Emerged .....	8	4	13	13
Cotton				
Planted .....	43	35	28	45
Emerged .....	11	5	13	20
Onions				
Planted .....	85	70	89	91
Emerged .....	60	45	65	76
Peanuts				
Planted .....	15	6	--	5
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	36	26	53	70
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	90	82	91	89
Receiving supplemental feed.....	88	93	92	74
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	96	93	90	91
Receiving supplemental feed.....	70	72	95	68

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 .....	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	53	52	55	34
Short .....	37	38	34	38
Adequate.....	10	10	10	27
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	56	53	60	32
Short .....	37	40	34	43
Adequate.....	7	7	5	25
Surplus.....	--	--	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	2	10	5
Poor .....	8	6	3	3
Fair.....	23	19	40	33
Good .....	61	68	37	52
Excellent.....	7	5	10	7
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	NA	NA	NA
Poor .....	13	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	41	NA	NA	NA
Good .....	25	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	15	NA	NA	NA
Onions				
Very poor.....	5	NA	--	--
Poor .....	15	NA	--	--
Fair.....	40	NA	--	11
Good .....	25	NA	27	47
Excellent.....	15	NA	73	42
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	18	20	28	16
Poor .....	37	36	37	29
Fair.....	35	34	29	37
Good .....	10	10	6	16
Excellent.....	--	--	--	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	54	45	40	13
Poor .....	31	40	23	21
Fair.....	7	10	22	32
Good .....	5	2	5	24
Excellent.....	3	3	10	10
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	5	5	5
Poor .....	22	19	19	11
Fair.....	40	39	45	40
Good .....	30	33	23	37
Excellent.....	4	4	8	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	4	17	11
Poor .....	4	9	4	8
Fair.....	25	31	31	33
Good .....	55	48	40	46
Excellent.....	15	8	8	2

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero