

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm, very dry weather dominated the state during March. With the exception of Antelope Wells, where year-to-date precipitation was 0.58 inch above normal, all weather stations reported moisture deficits since January 1. Most notably, Chama was already 4.37 inches below normal for the year, followed by Red River at -2.72 inches and El Morro at -2.23 inches. Virtually statewide, reporter comments indicated an extreme need for moisture as the spring planting season neared. Reports from Curry County noted that dry, windy conditions slowed, if not halted dryland winter wheat growth, and have negated the potential for an average production year in some irrigated fields. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 9 degrees above normal. Daytime highs ranged from 61 degrees at Chama to 87 degrees at Artesia and Roswell. Overnight lows varied from -5 degrees at Eagle Nest to 36 degrees at Truth or Consequences. Native pastures and rangeland feedstuffs had become depleted due to the abnormally dry first quarter. As such, most ranchers were having to provide supplemental feed to their herds to sustain herd health prior to the availability of forest service allotments. Additionally, it was reported that loco weed has become a problem in some herds in Union County. Feed and concentrate supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 14 percent short, and 85 percent adequate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 5 percent very short, 20 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile planted	24	NA	50	NA
Onions planted	54	NA	90	NA
Cows calved	20	15	16	NA
Ewes lambled	18	12	8	NA
Livestock receiving supplemental feed				
Cattle and calves	81	83	84	NA
Sheep and lambs	42	77	77	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	30	5	NA
Short.....	74	20	50	NA
Adequate	17	48	45	NA
Surplus	--	2	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	8	5	7	NA
Short.....	36	15	24	NA
Adequate	56	80	69	NA
Surplus	--	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	NA	--	NA
Poor.....	2	NA	--	NA
Fair.....	58	NA	17	NA
Good	24	NA	46	NA
Excellent	16	NA	37	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	4	--	--	NA
Poor.....	17	--	--	NA
Fair.....	46	20	50	NA
Good	33	30	40	NA
Excellent	--	50	10	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	2	1	NA
Poor.....	4	3	1	NA
Fair.....	46	29	40	NA
Good	45	57	56	NA
Excellent	3	9	2	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	27	15	19	NA
Poor.....	20	19	18	NA
Fair.....	11	15	14	NA
Good	41	51	49	NA
Excellent	1	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

New Mexico's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/NM_Weather_03272016.pdf