

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE
1050 Stewart St, Room E1200 Las Cruces, NM 88003
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry conditions prevailed across the State during the month of December and further depleted soil moisture supplies, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Row crop harvest wrapped up in several areas. Compared to last year, cotton harvest at the end of the month was behind last year while pecan harvest was ahead of last year’s progress. Comments from Union County noted little moisture received during the month was accompanied by high winds. Temperatures varied widely in the area with overnight lows dipping below zero. Other eastern counties noted conditions remained dry and monthly precipitation was minimal. Across the State, livestock were grazing recently seeded winter wheat fields and pasture grass where available. County reports noted reduced livestock numbers on wheat or pasture due to dry conditions. Winter wheat condition declined with 20 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 53 percent last month and 41 percent last year. Converted moisture totals during the past month ranged from no precipitation to approximately 4 inches. Significant precipitation was mostly confined to western and central counties. Most counties saw below average precipitation during December and remained below average for the year. Isolated areas in a few counties continued to register yearly rainfall accumulation at or below 50 percent of normal. Conversely, yearly precipitation for an area centered over portions of Catron, Cibola, and Socorro Counties totaled 200 percent of normal or more. Average temperatures during December were generally above normal except for a few northeastern counties that were at or below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 27, exceptional drought (D4) continued its hold across a portion of land in Union County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 3.6 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 14.8 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 23.2 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 51.2 percent. Drought-free conditions covered 7.0 percent of the State. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 17 percent very short, 38 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus, compared with 11 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 62 percent adequate on November 27. Stock water supplies were reported as 24 percent very short, 40 percent short, and 36 percent adequate, compared with 10 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 60 percent adequate on November 27.

Monthly reports will be released for January on January 30, 2023; for February on February 27, 2023; and for March on March 27, 2023.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	98	70	99	NA
Cotton				
Harvested	85	60	99	NA
Onions				
Planted	99	87	NA	NA
Emerged	95	50	NA	NA
Pecans				
Harvested	84	36	70	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	57	47	69	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	71	42	61	NA
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	41	17	32	NA
Short	35	36	48	NA
Adequate	23	44	20	NA
Surplus	1	3	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	42	21	31	NA
Short	35	40	49	NA
Adequate	23	39	20	NA
Surplus	--	--	--	NA
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION				
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	10	NA
Poor	1	1	15	NA
Fair.....	36	1	15	NA
Good	24	37	45	NA
Excellent.....	38	60	15	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	1	5	NA
Poor	22	2	24	NA
Fair.....	58	44	30	NA
Good	19	35	25	NA
Excellent.....	1	18	16	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	NA
Poor	5	5	17	NA
Fair.....	49	29	33	NA
Good	34	38	38	NA
Excellent.....	11	27	10	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	11	--	5	NA
Poor	31	6	16	NA
Fair.....	38	30	30	NA
Good	19	52	45	NA
Excellent.....	1	12	4	NA
NA – not available				
(--) – zero				