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
May 23, 2022

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING MAY 22, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Weather conditions were unchanged for much of New Mexico, further exacerbating the effects of prolonged drought on soil moisture levels, crop and livestock conditions, and pasture grass growth, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Some temporary relief was provided to a few isolated areas within Chaves, Guadalupe, Roosevelt, Santa Fe, Torrance, and Union Counties, where rainfall accumulations totaled an inch or more during the week. Despite the boost in moisture, additional heavy precipitation was needed to reverse the spreading dryness, as strong winds quickly dried much of the benefits seen following these limited rains. Temperatures during the week remained above average in most areas, although a late-season cold front delivered overnight lows that dipped below 40 degrees to a widespread portion of northern New Mexico. Highlighting the wild temperature swings during the week, daytime highs remained above 90 degrees in many southern counties. Fire danger remained extreme. The Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex showed additional growth during the week, covering roughly 311,000 acres with 40 percent containment. Row crop growers steadily planted corn, cotton, and peanuts where conditions allowed. In Union County, comments still indicated that several corn and sorghum fields that would normally be planted by now had not yet been tilled. Many wheat growers across the State were busy harvesting dry hay from their fields. Statewide, the first cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 63 percent complete by week's end, on par with both last year and normal. Harvest was underway in some northern counties by week's end. Topsoil moisture was reported as 89 percent very short to short, compared with 82 percent last year and a 5-year average of 70 percent. Additionally, 51 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 62 percent last year and a 5-year average of 45 percent. Overall, supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 89 percent of the cattle herd and 80 percent of the sheep herd being fed. Converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 3.0 inches to merely a trace, with much of the State dry. Since January 1, some of the driest counties were in southeastern and southwestern 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 continued to be among the driest ever recorded, and there were currently 33 counties with disaster designations. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 17, exceptional drought (D4) spread significantly when compared with last week, covering 36.7 percent of the State, an increase of 12.1 percentage points. Extreme drought (D3) was present across 48.2 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 12.3 percent. Moderate drought (D1) was present across 2.1 percent. Confined to a shrinking portion of Dona Ana and Otero Counties, 0.7 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). There was no freeze damage reported. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 19 percent light, 13 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 16 percent very short, 27 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 41 percent very short, 32 percent short, 26 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 45 percent very short, 18 percent short, and 37 percent adequate, compared with 43 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 32 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1st cutting harvested	63	48	64	62
Chile				
Emerged	86	79	65	74
Corn				
Planted	60	48	65	65
Emerged	31	15	34	33
Cotton				
Planted	56	48	45	66
Emerged	31	23	28	37
Onions				
Emerged	85	70	87	90
Peanuts				
Planted	42	29	12	30
Emerged	16	1	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed	74	54	75	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	95	93	96	97
Receiving supplemental feed....................	89	91	90	72
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed....................	80	70	90	64

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	6.4	6.0	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short..	55	56	52	35
Short	34	33	30	35
Adequate...	11	11	17	28
Surplus..	--	--	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short..	59	58	57	33
Short	35	34	32	39
Adequate...	6	8	10	27
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	6	6
Poor	8	7	11	4
Fair...	25	23	30	24
Good	56	61	45	59
Excellent...	10	8	8	7
Chile				
Very poor..	6	6	2	1
Poor	13	13	8	4
Fair...	41	41	20	34
Good	25	25	44	45
Excellent...	15	15	26	16
Onions				
Very poor..	--	5	--	--
Poor	5	15	--	--
Fair...	20	40	2	10
Good	60	25	30	43
Excellent...	15	15	68	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor..	20	16	22	12
Poor	31	35	40	33
Fair...	36	37	25	36
Good	12	11	11	15
Excellent...	1	1	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor..	62	59	34	10
Poor	22	26	20	22
Fair...	4	4	22	35
Good	3	3	5	24
Excellent...	9	8	19	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor..	3	2	7	3
Poor	18	18	13	9
Fair...	36	42	36	39
Good	32	33	27	40
Excellent...	11	5	17	9
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor..	1	4	20	9
Poor	12	9	12	8
Fair...	32	26	30	38
Good	48	49	36	44
Excellent...	7	12	2	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero