

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
October 12, 2021

Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 10, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Limited rainfall and warmer than normal average temperatures led to an increase in the number of days available for field and ranch work during the week, allowing growers to harvest large chunks of hay and chile acreage, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Although progress remained behind both last year and the 5-year average, 15 percent of the 5th cutting of alfalfa hay was cut and baled during the week. Additionally, where conditions allowed, the 6th cutting of alfalfa hay began. Producers picked 20 percent of the red chile crop, pushing progress ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Statewide, 89 percent of the 2022 winter wheat crop was seeded, with most of the remaining acreage coming from growers that will plant their fields following the corn harvest. Overall, 75 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 20 percent last year and a 5-year average of 51 percent. Reports from San Juan County noted that while crops were in mostly good condition, hay was in short supply and growers were selling fast due to rancher needs for winter feed. Currently, most cattle were in decent shape, with body condition scores of 5, on average. Statewide, 28 percent of the State’s pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 42 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 35 percent. During the past week, converted moisture totals ranged from about 1 inch to merely a trace. About half of the State was dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for October 5, drought-free conditions existed across an area equal to 10.2 percent of the State, while abnormal dryness increased to cover 14.2 percent. Moderate drought (D1) decreased to 26.6 percent. Severe drought (D2) increased to cover 33.2 percent of New Mexico. Extreme (D3) drought fell to 15.9 percent of the State. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 68 percent short to very short, compared with 88 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 51 percent. Comments from several counties noted the need for additional rainfall going into winter. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 8 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent none, 4 percent light, 94 percent moderate, and 1 percent heavy. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 11 percent very short, 25 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus, compared with 18 percent very short, 30 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 25 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 18 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 48 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
5 th cutting harvested	69	54	80	90
6 th cutting harvested	5	--	28	51
Chile				
Green harvested.....	98	93	94	NA
Red harvested.....	40	20	38	27
Corn				
Mature	84	74	67	70
Harvested for grain.....	4	1	13	8
Harvested for silage.....	94	84	85	84
Cotton				
Bolls opening	44	34	51	67
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	8	3	--	12
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	89	83	79	88
Emerged	78	65	56	65
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	26	28	53	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	39	40	62	NA

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	6.7	5.9	6.8	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	33	41	15
Short.....	41	35	47	36
Adequate	31	28	12	45
Surplus	1	4	--	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	36	40	45	19
Short.....	35	35	41	32
Adequate	28	22	14	48
Surplus	1	3	--	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.....	--	3	1	NA
Poor	2	6	5	NA
Fair.....	39	38	17	NA
Good	44	36	60	NA
Excellent	15	17	17	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	5	4	3	3
Fair.....	32	37	19	29
Good	30	31	28	44
Excellent	33	28	50	23
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor	19	17	18	16
Fair.....	39	40	56	44
Good	34	39	16	31
Excellent	8	4	10	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	11	15	10
Poor	17	22	27	25
Fair.....	41	46	36	37
Good	21	16	14	22
Excellent	10	5	8	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	9	8	17	10
Fair.....	32	33	45	61
Good	59	59	38	29
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	1	5	3	1
Fair.....	1	6	31	10
Good	97	88	66	61
Excellent	1	1	--	28
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	6	1	--	1
Poor	5	2	60	24
Fair.....	14	21	20	24
Good	54	53	10	37
Excellent	21	23	10	14
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	3	4	2
Poor	8	9	10	7
Fair.....	25	30	37	38
Good	40	38	30	42
Excellent	23	20	19	11
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	5	10	24	14
Poor	12	12	17	13
Fair.....	34	39	28	22
Good	44	39	31	47
Excellent	5	--	--	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero