

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2022

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 24, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Monsoon season continued to deliver widespread moisture to many counties across New Mexico, although total accumulations varied tremendously from location to location, with the same areas remaining dry, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Slight improvements to soil moisture levels were noted again this week. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 81 percent very short to short, compared with 84 percent last week, 53 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Comments from Union County suggest that, given how far along the growing season has progressed, some fields will not be planted this year. Additionally, the development of the corn and sorghum crops in the county was progressing, although conditions were below average. The sorghum was approximately 8 inches tall by week’s end. Pasture conditions across the State ranged from very poor to excellent, with grass in some areas turning dormant. Reports from Roosevelt County noted that conditions were dry. Statewide, 50 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 53 percent last week, 37 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 44 percent. Supplemental feeding needs remained high. Producers were busy harvesting alfalfa hay, onions, and winter wheat for grain. With the monsoonal weather pattern improving wildfire conditions, firefighters changed their focus to suppression repair efforts, including mending fences and roads, although additional rainfall and flooding interrupted progress. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from approximately 4 inches in a few isolated locations across the State to merely a trace in some areas. Pockets of northwestern and southeastern New Mexico remained dry. Despite the rainfall being fairly widespread again this week, total weekly accumulations remained below average for many locations. The steady monsoon has improved yearly precipitation in many northcentral and western counties, although total accumulations for most counties remained below average. The driest areas remained in portions of Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties, where precipitation has totaled 25 percent of normal or less, affecting large acreages of cotton, dry hay, and haylage, as well as large percentages of the cattle and sheep herds. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 19, drought conditions continued to show some slight improvement during the week. Roughly 33 percent of the State remained categorized in the exceptional (D4) or extreme (D3) drought categories – 11.1 and 21.7 percent, respectively. Severe drought (D2) was unchanged, covering 52.7 percent of New Mexico, while moderate drought (D1) was present across 13.0 percent. The area noted in abnormal dryness decreased to 0.8 percent of the State, as drought-free conditions were reintroduced to 0.7 percent of Dona Ana and Otero Counties. No hail damage was reported during the week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 5 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 30 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 54 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 40 percent adequate, compared with 15 percent very short, 26 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	90	80	89	85
3 rd cutting harvested	23	12	38	49
Corn				
Silked.....	30	11	27	28
Cotton				
Squaring	56	35	54	63
Setting bolls	1	NA	18	20
Onions				
Harvested	81	77	75	NA
Peanuts				
Pegging	84	55	76	48
Winter wheat				
Harvested for grain	91	77	93	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	75	65	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	65	70	81	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	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	40	15	27
Short	46	44	38	40
Adequate.....	19	16	41	30
Surplus.....	--	--	6	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	39	40	22	30
Short	43	46	46	43
Adequate.....	18	14	30	26
Surplus.....	--	--	2	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	--	6
Poor	7	10	7	6
Fair.....	29	26	37	27
Good	52	48	35	49
Excellent.....	9	15	21	12
Chile				
Very poor.....	7	5	--	1
Poor	13	14	10	7
Fair.....	25	26	22	28
Good	52	48	42	47
Excellent.....	3	7	26	17
Corn				
Very poor.....	7	4	--	2
Poor	20	13	3	4
Fair.....	31	35	49	42
Good	14	15	31	33
Excellent.....	28	33	17	19
Cotton				
Very poor.....	6	5	--	2
Poor	20	16	22	15
Fair.....	50	54	41	49
Good	24	24	28	27
Excellent.....	--	1	9	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	9	7	14	13
Poor	41	46	23	31
Fair.....	41	38	31	35
Good	7	7	22	17
Excellent.....	2	2	10	4
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	7	7	9	10
Fair.....	75	75	48	56
Good	13	13	43	33
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	2	1	--	--
Poor	5	7	5	2
Fair.....	22	24	14	12
Good	38	34	81	68
Excellent.....	33	34	--	18
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	2	4	2
Poor	18	22	11	10
Fair.....	38	39	35	40
Good	27	29	42	40
Excellent.....	16	8	8	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	13	8
Poor	10	12	5	8
Fair.....	36	32	25	31
Good	51	52	49	48
Excellent.....	3	4	8	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero