

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
July 26, 2021

Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING JULY 25, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Another week of moderate rainfall across the state continued to reduce the severe ongoing drought in New Mexico, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Soil moisture and pasture conditions continue to improve, providing an increased amount of forage and a boost to growing crops, along with better natural water sources for livestock. Alfalfa hay and wheat harvest continued to progress, with winter wheat harvest now nearly complete in the state. This week also brought an earlier than usual beginning to the state’s green chile harvest after several weeks of increased rain and cooler temperatures helped hurry the chile progress along. Despite the consistent rains bringing salvation to chile farmers, a fieldworker shortage could result in even more harvest losses again this year, as farmers struggle to put enough hands in the field to get the chiles off the plants in time. Statewide, 37 percent of the State’s pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 50 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 43 percent. During the past week, converted moisture totals ranged from about 6 inches to merely a trace, with most of the state receiving 0-3 inches. Rainfall was fairly widespread, with heavier concentrations along the western side and in the northwestern corner. Total accumulations were well above average in the northwestern part of the state and in some parts of the western and southern regions of New Mexico. According to the United States Drought Monitor for July 13, drought-free conditions existed across an area equal to 7.2 percent of the State, only a slight increase from last week’s 7.1 percent. Abnormal dryness increased to cover 9.3 percent of the State. Moderate drought (D1) decreased, and was present across 12.6 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) rose two percentage points to 26.2 percent. Small changes were evident in extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought, with 23.3 and 21.5 percent of the State classified in the two categories, respectively. Collectively, about 54,464 square miles were still affected by extreme and exceptional drought. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 53 percent short to very short, compared with 80 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 72 percent. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 2 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 6 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 34 percent short and 54 percent adequate, compared with 10 percent very short, 35 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 26 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 20 percent very short, 40 percent short, and 40 percent adequate 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	84	86
3 rd cutting harvested	40	25	51	55
4 th cutting harvested	5	NA	20	NA
Chile				
Green harvested.....	3	--	1	NA
Corn				
Silked	28	21	25	32
Cotton				
Squaring	55	45	78	68
Setting bolls.....	20	7	34	23
Onions				
Harvested.....	77	65	93	NA
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	77	67	83	37
Winter wheat				
Harvested.....	95	83	94	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	65	61	78	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	81	83	65	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	6.4	6.1	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	20	35	28
Short.....	38	36	45	44
Adequate	41	39	20	26
Surplus	6	5	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	22	26	36	30
Short.....	46	45	49	42
Adequate	30	28	15	27
Surplus	2	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	6
Poor	7	10	3	5
Fair.....	37	44	35	29
Good	35	29	50	51
Excellent	21	17	11	9
Chile				
Very poor.....	--	1	2	1
Poor	10	10	7	7
Fair.....	22	21	30	28
Good	42	42	55	49
Excellent	26	26	6	15
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	3
Poor	3	4	1	4
Fair.....	49	51	50	39
Good	31	31	20	36
Excellent	17	14	28	18
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	2	2
Poor	22	23	17	15
Fair.....	41	41	50	48
Good	28	27	22	28
Excellent	9	9	9	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	14	17	15	11
Poor	23	24	35	32
Fair.....	31	31	35	38
Good	22	20	10	17
Excellent	10	8	5	2
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	1
Poor	9	9	14	9
Fair.....	48	49	48	62
Good	43	42	33	28
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	5	8	--	1
Fair.....	14	10	30	11
Good	81	82	66	59
Excellent	--	--	4	29
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	5	2	2
Poor	11	10	5	9
Fair.....	35	35	42	40
Good	42	42	42	42
Excellent	8	8	9	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	13	17	5	8
Poor	5	5	11	10
Fair.....	25	21	37	31
Good	49	49	46	47
Excellent	8	8	1	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero