

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
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures and limited rainfall continued as the dominant weather pattern across much of the State, which led to some noticeable declines in soil moisture levels that had recently been boosted by monsoon rains while providing producers ample time for field and ranch work, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With production at this point in the growing season limited to southern locales, hay harvest was slower during the week due to some rain falling across most southwestern counties. Both green and red chile harvest progressed at a normal pace. With progress advancing at a pace similar to last year when growers were slow to plant due to soil moisture concerns, the 2022 winter wheat crop was 65 percent seeded by week’s end. Reports indicated that sorghum harvest was about 30 percent complete in Union County. In Curry County, cooler nighttime temperatures were noted, along with much drier conditions. Statewide, 37 percent of the State’s pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 51 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 34 percent. Ranchers were busy with fall activities, especially shipping calves and yearlings to feed yards or auction barns. During the past week, converted moisture totals ranged from about 2 inches in a few isolated locations of southwestern New Mexico to merely a trace. Much of the State either saw less than 0.1 inch or was dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 21, drought-free conditions existed across an area equal to 10.8 percent of the State, while abnormal dryness decreased to cover 9.8 percent of the State. Moderate drought (D1) and severe drought (D2) both increased to cover 30.6 and 29.8 percent of New Mexico, respectively. Extreme (D3) drought remained across 19.1 percent of the State. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 73 percent short to very short, compared with 86 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 52 percent. Comments from Union County noted that the subsoil was dry to approximately 3 feet, and fire danger was extreme due to high winds and hot temperatures. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 6 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent none, 6 percent light, 88 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 13 percent very short, 32 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 38 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 14 percent very short, 32 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 16 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 45 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
5 th cutting harvested	45	40	59	70
Chile				
Green harvested.....	88	79	88	86
Red harvested.....	10	5	12	9
Corn				
Dented	91	80	76	77
Mature	59	40	53	48
Harvested for silage.....	75	61	78	68
Cotton				
Bolls opening	22	10	36	47
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	65	45	64	71
Emerged	45	25	40	40
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	30	35	80	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	45	45	73	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	6.6	6.6	6.8	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	34	33	40	16
Short.....	39	35	46	36
Adequate	23	26	14	43
Surplus	4	6	--	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	40	38	47	21
Short.....	37	36	39	33
Adequate	20	22	14	45
Surplus	3	4	--	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	4	1	3
Poor	10	12	6	6
Fair.....	36	30	35	29
Good	29	30	47	51
Excellent	22	24	11	11
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor	4	1	1	3
Fair.....	40	45	32	33
Good	33	26	24	37
Excellent	23	28	42	26
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	3
Poor	19	18	17	13
Fair.....	42	43	43	41
Good	35	32	26	35
Excellent	4	7	6	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	9	9	24	11
Poor	28	24	27	23
Fair.....	50	48	30	37
Good	13	18	12	21
Excellent	--	1	7	8
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	2
Poor	9	9	23	12
Fair.....	32	32	23	56
Good	59	59	46	30
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	--
Poor	7	9	7	2
Fair.....	10	12	37	11
Good	83	78	55	61
Excellent	--	1	--	26
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	5	4	5	2
Poor	7	5	11	6
Fair.....	33	30	46	38
Good	37	40	21	41
Excellent	18	21	17	13
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	12	7	27	13
Poor	7	10	11	9
Fair.....	45	40	22	27
Good	36	40	40	45
Excellent	--	3	--	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero