

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
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 17, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The monsoon delivered another week of much-needed rainfall to a wide swath of New Mexico, although total accumulations varied tremendously from location to location, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The continued moisture led to further, although slight, improvements in soil moisture levels. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 84 percent very short to short, compared with 84 percent last week, 56 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 68 percent. There was a 4 percentage point shift noted in the very poor to poor categories by week’s end. While the monsoon has been strong for some areas, other locations remained dry, with crop and pasture conditions in these locales trending worse. Reports from San Juan County noted that rainfall has completely missed parts of the area, leaving pasture grass production in dire condition. Additionally, many tribal rangelands were noted to have topsoil blown into fence rows and along roadways. Similarly, comments from Union County indicated that range conditions were quickly deteriorating under hot temperatures and limited rainfall. Statewide, 53 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 58 percent last week, 41 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 50 percent. Supplemental feeding needs remained high. Producers were busy harvesting alfalfa hay, onions, and winter wheat for grain. The third cutting of alfalfa was advancing quickly in most southern counties. With the monsoonal weather pattern, lightning ignited several wildfires across the Santa Fe National Forest during the week, although a quick firefighter response led to easy containment. There was no growth of the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex during the week, and command for the area was transferred to a Type 2 management team. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from approximately 5 inches in a few isolated locations in Catron and Cibola Counties to merely a trace in some areas. Pockets of the State were dry. Despite the rainfall being fairly widespread, total weekly accumulations remained below average for many locations. An active monsoon has helped to improve 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 12, drought conditions showed an approximate one-category shift during the week, with roughly 33 percent of the State categorized in the exceptional (D4) or extreme (D3) drought categories – 11.3 and 21.5 percent, respectively. Severe drought (D2) increased to cover 52.7 percent of New Mexico, while moderate drought (D1) was present across 13.0 percent. Abnormal dryness was noted across 1.6 percent of the State, unchanged from last week, and confined to Dona Ana and Otero Counties. No hail damage was reported during the week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 7 percent light, 6 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 19 percent very short, 25 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 21 percent very short, 30 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 38 percent adequate, compared with 22 percent very short, 26 percent short, 51 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.....	80	70	78	78
3 rd cutting harvested	12	3	24	38
Corn				
Silked.....	11	5	19	17
Cotton				
Squaring	35	25	43	50
Onions				
Harvested	77	67	62	82
Peanuts				
Pegging	55	33	60	36
Winter wheat				
Harvested for grain	77	62	81	86
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	75	75	61	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	70	70	83	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	6.4	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	40	44	20	28
Short	44	40	36	40
Adequate.....	16	15	39	29
Surplus.....	--	1	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	40	40	26	28
Short	46	50	45	45
Adequate.....	14	10	28	26
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	--	7
Poor	10	12	10	6
Fair.....	26	30	44	29
Good	48	41	29	49
Excellent.....	15	16	17	9
Chile				
Very poor.....	5	4	1	--
Poor	14	13	10	6
Fair.....	26	25	21	30
Good	48	44	42	50
Excellent.....	7	14	26	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	4	4	--	2
Poor	13	10	4	4
Fair.....	35	33	51	43
Good	15	12	31	32
Excellent.....	33	41	14	19
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	2
Poor	16	16	23	15
Fair.....	54	53	41	46
Good	24	23	27	29
Excellent.....	1	3	9	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	9	17	15
Poor	46	49	24	35
Fair.....	38	34	31	33
Good	7	6	20	14
Excellent.....	2	2	8	3
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	7	7	9	12
Fair.....	75	75	49	54
Good	13	13	42	33
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	--
Poor	7	5	8	3
Fair.....	24	22	10	11
Good	34	32	82	70
Excellent.....	34	41	--	16
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	5	4
Poor	22	23	10	10
Fair.....	39	34	35	37
Good	29	27	42	39
Excellent.....	8	14	8	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	1	17	9
Poor	12	15	5	7
Fair.....	32	32	21	33
Good	52	50	49	46
Excellent.....	4	2	8	5

NA – not available
(--) – zero