

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  
May 2, 2022

Contact: Bill Meyer  
(800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION  
WEEK ENDING MAY 1, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** With the passing of another week, measurable moisture remained confined to a limited area, prompting worsening drought conditions under mostly above average temperatures and high winds, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Where conditions allowed, row crop producers were busy planting chile, corn, cotton, and onions. In Lea County, growers were busy planting peanuts during the week. The first cutting of alfalfa hay progressed slowly, advancing just 4 percentage points during the week, as many hay fields in northern New Mexico were reported in fair condition or worse. With the first cutting of alfalfa hay at 13 percent complete Statewide, progress was roughly 1 week behind last year. Under unchanged weather conditions, a new wildfire, the Bear Trap Fire, erupted on May 1, and covered approximately 850 acres with no containment. The largest fire complex, the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak Fire, nearly doubled in size during the week, now covering approximately 120,650 acres with 20 percent containment. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 90 percent very short to short, compared with 94 percent last year and a 5-year average of 72 percent. Additionally, 56 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 64 percent last year and a 5-year average of 45 percent. Supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 93 percent of the cattle herd being fed. Hay and roughage and stock water supplies continued to dwindle. With most of the precipitation confined to northeastern counties, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 1.5 inches to merely a trace. The vast majority of the State was dry. Since January 1, precipitation in some counties has totaled 5 percent of normal or less, leaving production conditions, whether for crops or livestock, extremely dire. Reports from Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties indicated that lingering drought without any meaningful rainfall will most likely force ranchers to downsize their cattle herds with the hope of maintaining some of their livelihoods. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 26, exceptional drought (D4) spread drastically, up 8.6 percentage points from last week to 15.7 percent, following months of below average precipitation totals. Extreme drought (D3) accounted for 52.3 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) was present across 27.8 percent of New Mexico. Moderate drought (D1) decreased to cover 3.2 percent of the State. Another 1.1 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 22 percent light, 14 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 27 percent very short, 27 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 55 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 16 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 40 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 37 percent adequate, compared with 45 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 24 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested .....	13	9	24	29
Chile				
Planted .....	88	82	70	77
Emerged .....	63	42	36	43
Corn				
Planted .....	30	21	27	33
Emerged .....	4	--	5	5
Cotton				
Planted .....	35	26	22	33
Emerged .....	5	2	NA	NA
Onions				
Planted .....	70	55	81	86
Emerged .....	45	35	57	69
Peanuts				
Planted .....	6	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	26	5	36	54
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	82	76	88	85
Receiving supplemental feed.....	93	87	95	80
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	93	90	88	86
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	72	92	74

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	6.4	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	52	43	63	34
Short .....	38	43	31	38
Adequate.....	10	14	5	27
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	53	44	66	33
Short .....	40	41	29	39
Adequate.....	7	15	4	28
Surplus.....	--	--	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.....	2	2	10	3
Poor .....	6	4	2	5
Fair.....	19	15	45	39
Good .....	68	77	34	48
Excellent.....	5	2	9	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	20	12	31	16
Poor .....	36	27	33	29
Fair.....	34	42	31	38
Good .....	10	18	5	16
Excellent.....	--	1	--	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	45	40	35	13
Poor .....	40	42	25	20
Fair.....	10	6	17	31
Good .....	2	5	13	27
Excellent.....	3	7	10	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	5	2	11	6
Poor .....	19	13	20	12
Fair.....	39	38	39	39
Good .....	33	34	23	36
Excellent.....	4	13	7	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	4	--	21	12
Poor .....	9	5	7	8
Fair.....	31	26	28	34
Good .....	48	53	36	44
Excellent.....	8	16	8	2

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero