

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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Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 24, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry weather dominated the State for another week which resulted in further deterioration of soil moisture levels and worsening drought conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Producers had nearly a full week of days suitable for field or ranch work. Hay harvest remained well behind the normal pace, although progress advanced quickly during the week. Growers were wrapping up winter wheat seeding, with 94 percent of the 2022 crop in the ground by week’s end. Overall, 62 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 22 percent last year and a 5-year average of 49 percent. Reports from Rio Arriba County noted that the apple harvest in the lower valleys was virtually complete. In Union County, fire danger was extreme due to high winds and dry conditions. Ranchers stayed busy moving cattle off of summer grazing ground and shipping yearlings. Statewide, 33 percent of the State’s pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 43 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. During the past week, converted moisture totals in limited locations of northwestern New Mexico equaled approximately 0.10 inch. The vast majority of the State was dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for October 19, drought-free conditions continued to shrink following several weeks of below average rainfall, now existing across an area equal to 5.4 percent of the State. The drought-free areas were present across portions of Eddy, Lea, and Otero Counties. Abnormal dryness expanded to cover 18.1 percent of the State. Moderate drought (D1) decreased slightly to 26.2 percent. Severe drought (D2) increased to cover 39.1 percent of New Mexico. Extreme drought (D3) was unchanged, covering 11.3 percent of the State. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 70 percent short to very short, compared with 88 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 54 percent. Some worsening was evident when compared with last week, as more land shifted from short soil moisture levels into very short soil moisture levels. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light and 2 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 8 percent light, 2 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent none, 9 percent light, 85 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus, compared with 20 percent very short, 41 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 30 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 22 percent very short, 38 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				
5 th cutting harvested	93	82	92	NA
6 th cutting harvested	33	18	61	74
Chile				
Red harvested	57	52	62	48
Corn				
Mature	95	90	89	85
Harvested for grain	19	14	37	28
Cotton				
Bolls opening	72	58	77	86
Peanuts				
Harvested	35	13	37	41
Winter wheat				
Planted	94	91	91	97
Emerged	85	82	72	87
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	35	30	76	55
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	40	45	78	57

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	6.8	6.2	6.5	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	27	23	45	17
Short	43	47	43	37
Adequate	26	27	12	44
Surplus	4	3	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	35	31	47	19
Short	44	41	40	35
Adequate	18	25	13	45
Surplus	3	3	--	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	NA
Poor	2	1	7	NA
Fair.....	40	35	23	NA
Good	46	50	48	NA
Excellent	10	14	20	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor	2	1	8	5
Fair.....	39	35	20	29
Good	30	28	19	41
Excellent	29	36	52	24
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	3
Poor	17	16	21	15
Fair.....	39	37	52	44
Good	38	32	15	32
Excellent	6	15	7	6
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	13	12	12	11
Poor	20	15	31	25
Fair.....	49	46	42	38
Good	16	19	8	20
Excellent	2	8	7	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	NA
Poor	7	9	20	NA
Fair.....	33	32	33	NA
Good	60	59	42	NA
Excellent	--	--	--	NA
Pecans				
Very poor.....	5	2	--	--
Poor	5	3	5	1
Fair.....	9	5	32	10
Good	80	89	63	56
Excellent	1	1	--	33
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	10	1	2
Poor	14	10	53	23
Fair.....	19	17	24	26
Good	44	48	12	35
Excellent	18	15	10	14
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	3	3	1	1
Poor	9	7	13	7
Fair.....	33	31	43	38
Good	37	38	25	42
Excellent	18	21	18	12
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	3	12	10
Poor	11	10	18	11
Fair.....	33	32	32	26
Good	53	48	38	48
Excellent	2	7	--	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero