

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
September 6, 2022

Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A weaker monsoon resulted in diminished rainfall totals that were more isolated during the week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Generally, soil moisture levels were stable, while crop and pasture conditions showed slight improvements. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 54 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 54 percent last week, 36 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Additionally, 41 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 38 percent last week, 23 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 23 percent. Producers across the State were busy harvesting alfalfa hay, with production in most northern counties slowing, while growers with fields in the south were staring on their fifth cutting for the year. Green chile was being harvested at a quick pace, with 77 percent of the crop out of the fields by week’s end. This is roughly 13 days ahead of last year’s harvest pace. With adequate soil moisture in many fields, winter wheat producers were busy seeding the 2023 crop. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from over 3 inches to only a trace or none in some areas. In a change from recent weeks, the heavier accumulations were confined to southeastern New Mexico. According to the United States Drought Monitor for August 30, drought conditions continued to show some week-to-week improvement following continued monsoonal moisture. Roughly 10 percent of the State remained categorized in the exceptional (D4) or extreme (D3) drought categories – 0.2 and 10.2 percent, respectively. For comparison, June 9, 2020, was the most recent date when less land area was classified across the two categories. Severe drought (D2) increased to cover 48.1 percent of New Mexico, while moderate drought (D1) increased its presence to account for 29.2 percent. The area noted in abnormal dryness increased to 11.3 percent of the State. Drought-free conditions, at 0.9 percent, maintained their hold in Dona Ana and Otero Counties, although a slight increase in area covered was noted. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light, 4 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 99 percent moderate and 1 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 7 percent very short, 35 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 18 percent very short, 23 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 15 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 20 percent very short, 28 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 14 percent very short, 18 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	99	93	NA	NA
4 th cutting harvested	60	32	81	79
5 th cutting harvested	9	NA	13	29
Chile				
Green harvested	77	66	62	60
Corn				
Doughed	60	41	72	67
Dented	6	5	48	41
Harvested for silage	6	3	26	31
Cotton				
Setting bolls	79	60	78	79
Bolls opening	4	1	4	11
Winter wheat				
Planted	14	1	13	21
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	55	57	35	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	20	25	60	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	6.9	6.4	6.6	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	8	8	26	23
Short	38	38	38	41
Adequate	52	52	32	33
Surplus	2	2	4	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	17	17	36	30
Short	47	48	36	40
Adequate	35	34	25	28
Surplus	1	1	3	2

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	2	4
Poor	3	4	7	8
Fair	24	27	18	22
Good	59	56	39	49
Excellent.....	14	12	34	17
Corn				
Very poor.....	4	4	--	2
Poor	5	6	5	5
Fair	30	35	39	37
Good	20	15	31	37
Excellent.....	41	40	25	19
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	2
Poor	29	31	19	15
Fair	36	38	41	40
Good	24	21	31	35
Excellent.....	6	5	9	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	3	4	7	12
Poor	24	26	24	28
Fair	32	32	46	37
Good	30	26	17	18
Excellent.....	11	12	6	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	7	7	9	11
Fair	75	75	32	50
Good	13	13	59	38
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	--
Poor	4	5	5	1
Fair	17	18	6	9
Good	36	38	88	71
Excellent.....	42	38	1	19
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	1	7	4
Poor	5	10	6	8
Fair	25	30	23	37
Good	38	35	43	38
Excellent.....	31	24	21	13
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	15	8
Poor	2	4	9	8
Fair	25	30	25	28
Good	55	56	44	51
Excellent.....	18	10	7	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero