

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



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Heavier weekly rainfall totals remained isolated, and total accumulations were reduced even further when compared with recent weeks, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With precipitation concentrated over a more condensed area, soil moisture levels dropped slightly during the week. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 51 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 54 percent last week, 33 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Reports from Rio Arriba and Union Counties indicated warm temperatures and spotty showers that resulted in a noticeable regression of pasture grass growth. Statewide, 39 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 41 percent last week, 17 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 21 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 ramping up production from their fifth cutting for the year. Green chile continued to be harvested at a quick pace, with 86 percent of the crop out of the fields by week’s end. This is roughly 11 days ahead of last year’s harvest pace. Orchard producers in Rio Arriba County were preparing to harvest apples and pears, while high-elevation timothy hay was being baled. In Union County, the sorghum crop was turning color, and heading was evident in most millet fields. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from over 2 inches in a few very isolated locations to only a trace or none across large portions of the State. Despite a fairly active monsoon season, year-to-date rainfall remained well below average for much of New Mexico, with precipitation totals across a wide-ranging portion of several southeastern counties at or below 50 percent of normal. Additionally, there were isolated areas in a number of counties where yearly rainfall was at or below 25 percent of normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 6, drought conditions continued to show some week-to-week improvement despite the reduction in widespread monsoonal moisture. For the first time since January 18, the State was free of exceptional drought (D4). Extreme (D3) drought was categorized across 9.2 percent of New Mexico, severe drought (D2) increased to cover 49.2 percent, moderate drought (D1) increased slightly to 29.4 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) accounted for 11.3 percent of the State. Drought-free conditions, at 0.9 percent, maintained their hold in Dona Ana and Otero Counties. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 6 percent light, 3 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 10 percent very short, 34 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus, compared with 11 percent very short, 29 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 32 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 13 percent very short, 23 percent short, 63 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				
4 th cutting harvested	75	60	86	88
5 th cutting harvested	20	9	26	40
Chile				
Green harvested	86	77	70	69
Corn				
Doughed	77	60	85	77
Dented	21	6	63	55
Harvested for silage	8	6	48	47
Cotton				
Setting bolls	87	79	90	NA
Bolls opening	6	4	7	16
Winter wheat				
Planted	19	14	28	38
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	50	55	27	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	15	20	55	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	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	10	8	30	23
Short	39	38	37	41
Adequate	49	52	28	33
Surplus	2	2	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	18	17	38	29
Short	49	47	35	40
Adequate	32	35	23	29
Surplus	1	1	4	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	--	3	4
Poor	6	3	9	10
Fair	29	24	25	23
Good	50	59	34	49
Excellent.....	14	14	29	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	4	1	1
Poor	4	5	1	3
Fair	25	30	40	34
Good	23	20	26	38
Excellent.....	45	41	32	24
Cotton				
Very poor.....	4	5	--	2
Poor	27	29	16	14
Fair	34	36	39	39
Good	25	24	29	34
Excellent.....	10	6	16	11
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	3	3	12	12
Poor	26	24	21	29
Fair	32	32	50	38
Good	29	30	14	17
Excellent.....	10	11	3	4
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor	7	7	9	12
Fair	75	75	32	50
Good	13	13	59	37
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	--
Poor	5	4	5	2
Fair	15	17	10	9
Good	38	36	85	72
Excellent.....	41	42	--	17
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	1	4	3
Poor	5	5	6	8
Fair	30	25	23	36
Good	40	38	44	40
Excellent.....	23	31	23	13
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	12	6
Poor	1	2	7	8
Fair	30	25	33	30
Good	60	55	43	51
Excellent.....	9	18	5	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero