

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite some accumulating precipitation, the lack of beneficial moisture was evident across much of the State, as soil moisture levels and many crop condition ratings continue to decline, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Overall, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 12 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 15 percent last month, and 40 percent last year. Comments from numerous counties indicated a tremendous need for substantial moisture as high winds quickly dried out any rain or snow received. All but three weather stations, reported some amount of precipitation during the month but only one station reported three inches or more of rainfall. Average temperatures ranged from -1 degrees below normal to 12 degrees above normal. While moisture was received in some areas last month, extremely dry conditions were reported across the State. Daytime highs varied from 52 degrees at Chama and Los Alamos to 83 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows ranged from -7 degrees at Los Alamos to 28 degrees at Alamogordo. Statewide, winter wheat conditions showed further deterioration, with 4 percent reported as good to excellent, compared with 10 percent at the end of January, and 29 percent last year. Wheat producers with irrigation capabilities were watering their fields as much as possible to help keep the crop alive. With the wheat crop struggling and native grasses in short supply, some livestock producers in Union County were noted to be planning herd reductions due to the lack of available feedstuffs. Hay supplies were dwindling in some areas, as growers have sold their 2017 production. Supplemental feeding for all livestock was increasing rapidly. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 4 percent very short, 22 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 2 percent very short, 16 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 19 percent very short, 39 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 13 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 60 percent adequate last month.

The last monthly report will be released for March on Monday, March 26, 2018. The first weekly report will be released on April 2, 2018.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	17	4	10	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	91	87	82	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	15	1	10	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	73	67	75	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	50	29	14	NA
Short	38	56	46	NA
Adequate	11	14	40	NA
Surplus	1	1	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	45	17	12	NA
Short	39	62	33	NA
Adequate	15	21	53	NA
Surplus	1	--	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	33	7	4	NA
Poor.....	41	55	18	NA
Fair.....	22	28	49	NA
Good.....	4	9	26	NA
Excellent.....	--	1	3	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor.....	4	4	4	NA
Fair.....	47	53	42	NA
Good.....	46	40	47	NA
Excellent.....	3	3	6	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	1	3	NA
Poor.....	9	7	8	NA
Fair.....	34	41	37	NA
Good.....	51	51	49	NA
Excellent.....	5	--	3	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

New Mexico’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/NM-Weather-02252018.pdf