

# 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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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2018

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm, windy, and dry weather persisted across much of New Mexico during the first 25 days of March, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Precipitation totaled less than 25 percent or normal throughout the eastern half of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor released on March 22, ninety-nine percent of the State was categorized as abnormally dry or worse, with 25.6 percent, 52.3 percent, and 20.8 percent experiencing extreme, moderate, or severe drought, respectively. Overall, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 8 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 12 percent last month, and 24 percent last year. Comments from numerous counties conveyed a dire need for substantial moisture as high winds were quickly drying soils, and fire danger continued to worsen. In fact, fires in Union County were reported to have burned approximately 20,000 acres. It was also noted that corn producers in Union County were beginning to cultivate their fields; however, they anticipated planting less corn acreage due to the lack of moisture. Precipitation was reported at 28 out of 45 weather stations, although total accumulations were below normal. Average temperatures ranged from -3 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal. Daytime highs varied from 53 degrees at Angel Fire to 90 degrees at Artesia and Carlsbad. Overnight lows ranged from -3 degrees at El Vado Dam to 29 degrees at Truth or Consequences. Supplemental feeding continued, with a larger percentage of the cattle herd being fed this year due to lesser quality wheat pastures and native feedstuffs. Livestock producers were also hauling more water to their herds. Despite the poor pasture conditions and lessening hay supply, producers were trying to maintain their herd numbers because of a depressed market. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 37 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 4 percent very short, 22 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 23 percent very short, 24 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 19 percent very short, 39 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last month.

The first weekly report will be released on April 2, 2018.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity                        | Current report | Previous report | Previous year | 5-year average |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                                  | (percent)      | (percent)       | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Chile planted.....               | 16             | NA              | 22            | NA             |
| Onions planted.....              | 52             | NA              | 33            | NA             |
| Cattle and calves                |                |                 |               |                |
| Cows calved .....                | 25             | 17              | 15            | NA             |
| Receiving supplemental feed..... | 91             | 91              | 78            | NA             |
| Sheep and lambs                  |                |                 |               |                |
| Ewes lambed .....                | 25             | 15              | 15            | NA             |
| Receiving supplemental feed..... | 78             | 73              | 72            | NA             |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

|                  | Current report | Previous report | Previous year | 5-year average |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                  | (percent)      | (percent)       | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Topsoil moisture |                |                 |               |                |
| Very short.....  | 44             | 50              | 14            | NA             |
| Short.....       | 48             | 38              | 62            | NA             |
| Adequate .....   | 8              | 11              | 23            | NA             |
| Surplus .....    | --             | 1               | 1             | NA             |
| Subsoil moisture |                |                 |               |                |
| Very short.....  | 20             | 45              | 9             | NA             |
| Short.....       | 55             | 39              | 54            | NA             |
| Adequate .....   | 24             | 15              | 36            | NA             |
| Surplus .....    | 1              | 1               | 1             | NA             |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION**

| Commodity         | Current report<br>(percent) | Previous report<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay       |                             |                              |                            |                             |
| Very poor.....    | --                          | NA                           | --                         | NA                          |
| Poor.....         | 1                           | NA                           | 7                          | NA                          |
| Fair.....         | 61                          | NA                           | 66                         | NA                          |
| Good.....         | 35                          | NA                           | 27                         | NA                          |
| Excellent.....    | 3                           | NA                           | --                         | NA                          |
| Winter wheat      |                             |                              |                            |                             |
| Very poor.....    | 8                           | 33                           | 3                          | NA                          |
| Poor.....         | 62                          | 41                           | 43                         | NA                          |
| Fair.....         | 23                          | 22                           | 45                         | NA                          |
| Good.....         | 5                           | 4                            | 6                          | NA                          |
| Excellent.....    | 2                           | --                           | 3                          | NA                          |
| Cattle and calves |                             |                              |                            |                             |
| Very poor.....    | 3                           | --                           | --                         | NA                          |
| Poor.....         | 5                           | 4                            | 2                          | NA                          |
| Fair.....         | 51                          | 47                           | 40                         | NA                          |
| Good.....         | 36                          | 46                           | 54                         | NA                          |
| Excellent.....    | 5                           | 3                            | 4                          | NA                          |
| Sheep and lambs   |                             |                              |                            |                             |
| Very poor.....    | 21                          | 1                            | 2                          | NA                          |
| Poor.....         | 12                          | 9                            | 13                         | NA                          |
| Fair.....         | 23                          | 34                           | 35                         | NA                          |
| Good.....         | 42                          | 51                           | 49                         | NA                          |
| Excellent.....    | 2                           | 5                            | 1                          | 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-03252018.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/NM-Weather-03252018.pdf)