

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 WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite some isolated precipitation across northern New Mexico, the weather pattern was again dominated by fluctuating temperatures and dry, windy conditions which caused further deterioration of native pasture grass, as well as soil moisture levels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 12 showed intensification of drought conditions in the northeast, with exceptional drought (D4) noted in an area centered over Union County that represents 2.2 percent of the State. Conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were reported across 99.9 percent of New Mexico. Overall, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 9 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 7 percent last week, 39 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 10 percent good to excellent, compared with 11 percent last week, 26 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 21 percent. Wildfires continued to be a concern Statewide, with an approximate 30,000 acre fire reported across Lea and Roosevelt Counties. Spring fieldwork was ongoing, with row crops being planted as conditions allowed. Numerous comments noted the dry, windy weather and swings in temperature from extremely hot to cold. Precipitation was recorded at 13 out of 44 reporting weather stations. The largest moisture accumulation was reported at Capulin, where 0.45 inch fell. Average temperatures ranged from -2 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal. At the reporting weather stations, daytime highs varied from 64 degrees at Los Alamos and Navajo Whiskey Creek to 96 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows ranged from 13 degrees at Chama to 42 degrees at Truth or Consequence. Supplemental feeding continued at a high rate for both cattle and sheep compared with last year, with comments from Grant and Luna Counties indicating that ranchers were also having to haul water to their livestock. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 24 percent very short, 29 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 21 percent very short, 36 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 24 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 28 percent very short, 25 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested.....	1	--	7	8
Chile				
Planted.....	47	34	58	64
Emerged	29	4	24	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	2	NA	12	8
Cotton				
Planted.....	15	10	16	17
Onions				
Planted.....	73	64	83	94
Emerged	58	45	64	NA
Sorghum				
Planted.....	1	--	--	--
Winter wheat				
Headed	20	4	19	13
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	79	50	66	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	91	87	64	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	74	45	58	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	80	63	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.....	5.9	6.7	5.2	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	57	57	13	32
Short.....	34	36	48	38
Adequate.....	9	7	38	30
Surplus.....	--	--	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	29	29	8	NA
Short.....	56	56	45	NA
Adequate.....	15	15	46	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	15	16	5	4
Fair.....	49	45	57	40
Good.....	34	37	37	41
Excellent.....	2	2	1	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	12	9	10	24
Poor.....	38	31	15	21
Fair.....	40	49	49	34
Good.....	9	10	24	18
Excellent.....	1	1	2	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	17	13	2	21
Poor.....	51	52	28	17
Fair.....	19	23	39	32
Good.....	9	8	28	25
Excellent.....	4	4	3	5
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	3	1	NA
Poor.....	8	9	3	NA
Fair.....	50	48	47	NA
Good.....	34	36	46	NA
Excellent.....	4	4	3	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	9	15	6	NA
Poor.....	10	16	13	NA
Fair.....	39	30	34	NA
Good.....	40	37	46	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	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-04152018.pdf