

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 22, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Although there was some measurable moisture reported in isolated areas in the northern part of the State, drought conditions intensified during the week, leading to increased irrigation and supplemental feeding, as well as the further deterioration of pasture and range grasses, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 19 showed that exceptional drought (D4) had expanded to cover 6.6 percent of the State. Conditions rated abnormally dry or worse continued to blanket 99.9 percent of New Mexico. Overall, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 10 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 9 percent last week, 38 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 7 percent good to excellent, compared with 10 percent last week, 23 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 21 percent. Reports from Union County suggested that despite beneficial moisture during the week, supplemental feeding remained heavy, with hay in short supply. Additionally, ranchers were starting to brand their cattle ahead of moving them to any available summer pastures. Similarly, comments from Grant and Luna Counties noted that summer grasses had not yet started growing due to the prolonged drought conditions, and that if substantial moisture was not received soon, livestock producers may not have the feedstuffs available to maintain herd sizes. Spring fieldwork was ongoing, with row crops being planted as conditions allowed. Comments from several counties in the northwest noted cold temperatures that led to some potential freeze damage in orchard crops. Precipitation was recorded at 19 out of 42 reporting weather stations. The largest moisture accumulation was reported at Clayton, where 1.86 inches fell. Tukumcari, with 1.78 inches, was the only other station to report rainfall over 1 inch. Average temperatures ranged from -5 degrees below to 5 degrees above normal. At the reporting weather stations, daytime highs varied from 62 degrees at El Vado Dam and Los Alamos to 92 degrees at Carlsbad and Roswell. Overnight lows ranged from 10 degrees at El Vado Dam to 45 degrees at Alamogordo. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 10 percent light and 1 percent moderate. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 27 percent light, 15 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 26 percent very short, 30 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 24 percent very short, 29 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 26 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 51 percent adequate, compared with 25 percent very short, 24 percent short, 50 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.....	10	1	17	19
Chile				
Planted.....	58	47	76	78
Emerged	42	29	39	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	22	2	23	20
Cotton				
Planted.....	20	15	42	33
Emerged	1	NA	1	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	80	73	88	97
Emerged	65	58	77	NA
Sorghum				
Planted.....	2	1	--	2
Winter wheat				
Headed	44	20	46	29
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	87	79	76	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	91	91	68	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	81	74	84	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	84	78	72	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	6.2	5.9	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	59	57	13	32
Short.....	31	34	49	38
Adequate	10	9	37	30
Surplus	--	--	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	31	29	9	NA
Short.....	61	56	45	NA
Adequate	8	15	45	NA
Surplus	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	4	--	--	1
Poor	16	15	5	3
Fair.....	46	49	55	42
Good	32	34	39	41
Excellent.....	2	2	1	13
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	NA	--	--
Poor	--	NA	--	--
Fair.....	29	NA	16	12
Good	50	NA	84	57
Excellent.....	21	NA	--	31
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	22	12	9	22
Poor	36	38	18	23
Fair.....	35	40	50	34
Good	6	9	21	18
Excellent.....	1	1	2	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	17	17	2	21
Poor	54	51	25	17
Fair.....	17	19	37	32
Good	7	9	31	24
Excellent.....	5	4	5	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	6	4	1	NA
Poor	9	8	2	NA
Fair.....	52	50	47	NA
Good	29	34	47	NA
Excellent.....	4	4	3	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	16	9	6	NA
Poor	10	10	13	NA
Fair.....	38	39	34	NA
Good	34	40	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-04222018.pdf