

# 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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Above average temperatures and below average rainfall continued their dominance across the State during the week, exacerbating drought conditions in many areas, and forcing some ranchers to wean and sell calves earlier than normal, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The United States Drought Monitor released on September 13 categorized exceptional drought (D4) rooted across 14.5 percent of New Mexico, unchanged from last week. Severe to extreme drought (D2-D3) was reportedly covering 44.9 percent of the State, with 27.6 percent and 17.3 percent categorized as D2 and D3, respectively. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were entrenched across 99.0 percent of the State, a slight improvement when compared with last week. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 45 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 46 percent last week, 62 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 52 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 13 percent good to excellent, compared with 16 percent last week, 40 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Statewide, the green chile harvest was nearly three-quarters complete, well behind normal. Winter wheat seeding continued at a rapid pace. Reports from Curry County noted that wheat seeding was nearly complete, with the exception being wheat planted following corn harvest. In Lea County, irrigation on cotton had stopped, and reports indicated that growing conditions were good despite limited rainfall. Precipitation was recorded at 15 out of 45 reporting weather stations, with Cloudcroft, at 0.44 inches, reporting the largest accumulation during the week. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 8 degrees above normal. Daytime highs varied from 73 degrees at Los Alamos to 97 degrees at Tucumcari. Overnight lows ranged from 26 degrees at El Vado Dam to 65 degrees at Santa Teresa. Pecan nut set was reported as 35 percent light, 50 percent moderate, and 15 percent heavy. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light and 4 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 5 percent very short, 26 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 16 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 51 percent adequate.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	94	90	89	96
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	65	50	49	63
6 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	22	11	26	15
Chile				
Green harvested.....	72	66	77	84
Corn				
Doughed.....	91	86	80	90
Dented.....	70	60	61	67
Mature.....	43	31	27	23
Harvested for silage.....	54	41	57	55
Cotton				
Setting bolls.....	92	86	89	95
Bolls opening .....	26	15	24	37
Sorghum				
Headed .....	90	86	87	93
Turning color.....	65	60	75	50
Mature.....	4	3	9	6
Harvested.....	1	--	1	--
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	45	35	64	31
Emerged .....	25	15	17	4
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	47	48	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	43	44	NA	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 .....	7.0	5.8	7.0	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	19	19	4	14
Short.....	36	35	34	34
Adequate .....	43	40	59	47
Surplus .....	2	6	3	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	46	44	2	NA
Short.....	30	32	36	NA
Adequate .....	23	21	59	NA
Surplus .....	1	3	3	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)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor.....	16	17	--	1
Poor.....	5	4	30	11
Fair.....	14	16	19	27
Good.....	54	52	41	48
Excellent.....	11	11	10	13
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	2
Poor.....	2	5	4	3
Fair.....	32	35	22	22
Good.....	48	44	56	49
Excellent.....	18	16	15	24
<b>Cotton</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	4	2
Poor.....	8	10	6	13
Fair.....	27	29	35	34
Good.....	59	55	44	38
Excellent.....	6	6	11	13
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	14	15	2	7
Poor.....	37	30	23	20
Fair.....	36	39	35	37
Good.....	12	15	33	29
Excellent.....	1	1	7	7
<b>Peanuts</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	18	10	5	14
Fair.....	52	60	65	64
Good.....	30	30	30	19
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
<b>Pecans</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	--	--
Fair.....	--	1	5	16
Good.....	84	83	71	60
Excellent.....	16	16	24	24
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	7	1
Poor.....	5	3	1	3
Fair.....	40	48	35	36
Good.....	53	46	43	51
Excellent.....	2	3	14	9
<b>Cattle and calves</b>				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	NA
Poor.....	6	8	2	NA
Fair.....	40	42	27	NA
Good.....	40	34	59	NA
Excellent.....	14	15	11	NA
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>				
Very poor.....	--	5	5	NA
Poor.....	8	7	7	NA
Fair.....	34	32	25	NA
Good.....	56	54	58	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	5	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-09162018.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/NM-Weather-09162018.pdf)

Notice: Please be advised, the Weekly Crop Progress report's weather data table may be discontinued for budget reasons. Please contact the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office at (720) 787-3150 with comments or compliments regarding this issue. The Weekly Crop Progress report's crop progress and condition data will remain and be available.