

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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Contact: Longino Bustillos
 (800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Average temperatures coupled with average to above-average precipitation in many locations led to a boost in soil moisture levels and winter wheat condition, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Cool season grasses were becoming more prevalent which allowed ranchers to decrease the amount of supplemental feed being given to their herds. The increased moisture prompted many farmers to begin their spring fieldwork in preparation for row crop planting. Comments from Dona Ana County indicated that the lettuce crop planted during January was in excellent condition, with head sizes as large as a baseball. In addition, fall-planted onions were also in excellent condition. The United States Drought Monitor released on March 21 noted that exceptional drought (D4) was not present in the State for the first time since April 3, 2018. Severe to extreme drought (D2-D3) was reportedly covering 26.3 percent of the State, with 18.2 percent and 8.1 percent categorized as D2 and D3, respectively. This was a decline of 4.9 percent from last month. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse remained evident across 63.7 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 36 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 33 percent last month, and 8 percent last year. Winter wheat condition was reported as 25 percent good to excellent, compared with 20 percent last month, and 7 percent last year. Reports from Union County indicated that recent rain and snow showers benefitted most dryland wheat that had been previously noted in very poor condition due to heavy grazing pressure. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 27 percent very short, 32 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 10 percent very short, 37 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 17 percent very short, 26 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 60 percent adequate last month.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on April 1, 2019.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	5	NA	16	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	21	NA	52	NA
Emerged	5	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	29	14	25	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	85	90	91	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	18	9	25	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	71	78	78	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.....	12	40	44	NA
Short.....	52	27	48	NA
Adequate	34	32	8	NA
Surplus	2	1	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	31	29	20	NA
Short.....	37	39	55	NA
Adequate	31	32	24	NA
Surplus	1	--	1	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	NA	--	NA
Poor	3	NA	1	NA
Fair.....	63	NA	61	NA
Good	33	NA	35	NA
Excellent.....	1	NA	3	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	5	6	8	NA
Poor	44	41	62	NA
Fair.....	26	33	23	NA
Good	22	19	5	NA
Excellent.....	3	1	2	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	1	3	NA
Poor	18	6	5	NA
Fair.....	52	62	51	NA
Good	23	25	36	NA
Excellent.....	6	6	5	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	21	NA
Poor	16	15	12	NA
Fair.....	57	54	23	NA
Good	27	31	42	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero