

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 WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warmer temperatures in many locations that have followed above average precipitation totals during March, promoted additional growth of cool season grasses and boosted winter wheat conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The boost in cool season grasses allowed for a slight reduction in the amount of supplemental feed cattle ranchers were providing to their herds as calving progress neared the halfway point. Field preparation for row crop planting ratcheted up, with nearly a week of days suitable fieldwork reported. The United States Drought Monitor released on March 28 noted that exceptional and extreme drought (D4 and D3) were not present in the State for the first time since January 23, 2018. Severe drought (D2) was reportedly covering 16.1 percent of the State, a decline of 2.2 percentage points from last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse remained evident across 54.8 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 45 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 36 percent last week, 7 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 27 percent. Winter wheat condition was reported as 32 percent good to excellent, compared with 25 percent last week, 13 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 31 percent. Overall, chile planting was well behind both last year and the average. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 29 percent very short, 31 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 27 percent very short, 32 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 23 percent very short, 19 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 17 percent very short, 26 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	8	5	25	34
Onions				
Planted.....	29	21	55	67
Emerg'd	9	5	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	43	29	36	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	82	85	91	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	32	18	34	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	71	79	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.3	NA	6.6	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	12	53	25
Short.....	47	52	40	48
Adequate	43	34	7	27
Surplus	2	2	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	25	31	29	18
Short.....	40	37	50	36
Adequate	34	31	20	46
Surplus	1	1	1	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	1	3	10	4
Fair.....	59	63	52	46
Good	39	33	36	37
Excellent.....	1	1	2	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	NA	2	11
Poor	7	NA	26	20
Fair.....	43	NA	59	43
Good	47	NA	12	22
Excellent.....	2	NA	1	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	5	21	13
Poor	36	44	46	24
Fair.....	30	26	20	32
Good	25	22	11	25
Excellent.....	7	3	2	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	2
Poor	21	18	9	9
Fair.....	47	52	42	43
Good	22	23	44	43
Excellent.....	10	6	4	3
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	14	16
Poor	12	16	19	19
Fair.....	56	57	30	27
Good	31	27	35	37
Excellent.....	1	--	2	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero