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

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING APRIL 7, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With the exception of an area centered over the heart of the State where precipitation totals climbed to 130 percent of normal or more, it was a dry week that afforded producers ample time to work their fields in preparation for spring row crop planting with mostly warm temperatures further boosting cool season grass growth in native pastures, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. In the northwest, it was noted that the body weights in beef cows and recently born calves were heavier when compared with last year, suggesting there is more feedstuffs available this season. Comments from Union County indicated that approximately 15 percent of fields have been planted. Reports from several locations suggested that timely precipitation was needed to continue the recent improvement seen in soil moisture levels because conditions were teetering on the edge of quickly declining. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 4 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D4 and D3), while severe drought (D2) was reportedly covering 16.1 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse remained evident across 53.6 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 43 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 45 percent last week, 7 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Winter wheat condition was reported as 45 percent good to excellent, compared with 32 percent last week, 12 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 32 percent. Head development was evident in a limited number of fields by week's end. Chile producers utilized ideal weather conditions to ramp up planting during the week, leaving overall progress ahead of last year and just 9 percentage points behind normal. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 30 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 44 percent adequate, compared with 29 percent very short, 31 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 20 percent very short, 25 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 23 percent very short, 19 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1st cutting harvested...	3	NA	--	1
Chile				
Planted...	34	8	33	45
Onions				
Planted...	42	29	63	79
Emerged	12	9	42	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	51	43	48	NA
Receiving supplemental feed...........................	75	82	87	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	39	32	44	NA
Receiving supplemental feed...........................	73	78	80	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....................................	6.9	6.3	6.7	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short...	9	8	57	27
Short..	48	47	36	43
Adequate...	42	43	7	30
Surplus..	1	2	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short...	20	25	29	20
Short..	40	40	56	36
Adequate...	39	34	15	44
Surplus..	1	1	--	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor..	1	--	--	--
Poor	4	1	16	5
Fair...	50	59	45	44
Good	42	39	37	39
Excellent	3	1	2	12
Pasture and range				
Very poor..	5	1	9	12
Poor	10	7	31	22
Fair...	43	43	49	42
Good	40	47	10	21
Excellent	2	2	1	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor..	--	2	13	11
Poor	30	36	52	25
Fair...	25	30	23	32
Good	32	25	8	26
Excellent	13	7	4	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor..	3	--	3	2
Poor	25	21	9	9
Fair...	40	47	48	44
Good	22	22	36	42
Excellent	10	10	4	3
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor..	1	--	15	15
Poor	11	12	16	18
Fair...	58	56	30	28
Good	30	31	37	38
Excellent	--	1	2	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero