

# 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  
 April 29, 2019

Contact: Longino Bustillos  
 (800) 530-8810

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 2019

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Beneficial precipitation in many locations during the past week aided crop development, boosted winter wheat conditions, and left most fields in excellent condition for producers that were busy planting spring crops, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Warm temperatures continued to spur the spring snow melt which has left stock water supplies in many northwestern locations full. Reports from Union County noted that corn planting was underway, although progress was slow. In Curry County, producers were gearing up to harvest the first cutting of alfalfa hay and wheat silage. Statewide, 61 percent of the onion crop was emerged, with condition reported to be good to excellent. Ranchers began turning cattle onto summer pastures. Comments indicated that locoweed was of growing concern to ranchers in Union County, as water shortages in the area had already become an issue. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 25 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D4 and D3), while severe drought (D2) was reportedly covering 6.8 percent of the State, a decline of 9.3 percentage points from last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 45.8 percent of the State, representing the smallest drought presence of any type since November 21, 2017. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 35 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 37 percent last week, 10 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 32 percent good to excellent, compared with 36 percent last week, 7 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 22 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, compared with 20 percent light and 1 percent moderate last week. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 7 percent light, 27 percent moderate, and 12 percent severe, compared with 10 percent light, 30 percent moderate, and 15 percent severe last week. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 34 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 30 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 39 percent adequate, and 1 percent last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 21 percent very short, 32 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 20 percent very short, 25 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity                              | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay                            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested..... | 24                        | 14                         | 23                         | 27                          |
| Chile                                  |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted.....                           | 72                        | 59                         | 67                         | 82                          |
| Emerged .....                          | 30                        | 12                         | 54                         | NA                          |
| Corn                                   |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted.....                           | 27                        | 16                         | 35                         | 30                          |
| Emerged .....                          | 2                         | NA                         | NA                         | NA                          |
| Cotton                                 |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted.....                           | 20                        | 10                         | 24                         | 40                          |
| Emerged .....                          | 2                         | NA                         | 13                         | NA                          |
| Onions                                 |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted.....                           | 81                        | 75                         | 87                         | 96                          |
| Emerged .....                          | 61                        | 56                         | 72                         | NA                          |
| Winter wheat                           |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Headed .....                           | 23                        | 8                          | 60                         | 51                          |
| Cattle and calves                      |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Cows calved .....                      | 82                        | 74                         | 91                         | NA                          |
| Receiving supplemental feed.....       | 68                        | 79                         | 88                         | NA                          |
| Sheep and lambs                        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Ewes lambed .....                      | 74                        | 62                         | 88                         | NA                          |
| Receiving supplemental feed.....       | 70                        | 79                         | 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..... | 6.4          | 6.5           | 6.6           | 6.2            |
| Topsoil moisture                 | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                  | 12           | 11            | 50            | 27             |
| Short.....                       | 53           | 52            | 40            | 40             |
| Adequate.....                    | 35           | 36            | 10            | 32             |
| Surplus.....                     | --           | 1             | --            | 1              |
| Subsoil moisture                 |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                  | 17           | 20            | 27            | 20             |
| Short.....                       | 41           | 43            | 62            | 37             |
| Adequate.....                    | 42           | 37            | 11            | 43             |
| Surplus.....                     | --           | --            | --            | --             |

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.....    | --           | 2             | --            | --             |
| Poor.....         | --           | 3             | 20            | 5              |
| Fair.....         | 47           | 40            | 42            | 42             |
| Good.....         | 46           | 51            | 34            | 41             |
| Excellent.....    | 7            | 4             | 4             | 12             |
| Onions            |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | NA            | --            | --             |
| Poor.....         | --           | NA            | --            | --             |
| Fair.....         | --           | NA            | 25            | 11             |
| Good.....         | 16           | NA            | 50            | 54             |
| Excellent.....    | 84           | NA            | 25            | 35             |
| Pasture and range |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 2            | 8             | 13            | 11             |
| Poor.....         | 25           | 20            | 39            | 25             |
| Fair.....         | 41           | 36            | 41            | 42             |
| Good.....         | 30           | 34            | 7             | 19             |
| Excellent.....    | 2            | 2             | --            | 3              |
| Winter wheat      |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | 3             | 18            | 12             |
| Poor.....         | 25           | 27            | 53            | 24             |
| Fair.....         | 27           | 27            | 21            | 31             |
| Good.....         | 33           | 37            | 3             | 25             |
| Excellent.....    | 15           | 6             | 5             | 8              |
| Cattle and calves |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 1            | 3             | 2             | 2              |
| Poor.....         | 8            | 13            | 10            | 8              |
| Fair.....         | 48           | 45            | 52            | 46             |
| Good.....         | 36           | 31            | 31            | 41             |
| Excellent.....    | 7            | 8             | 5             | 3              |
| Sheep and lambs   |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | 1             | 12            | 14             |
| Poor.....         | 9            | 4             | 6             | 15             |
| Fair.....         | 49           | 47            | 47            | 31             |
| Good.....         | 40           | 48            | 33            | 39             |
| Excellent.....    | 2            | --            | 2             | 1              |

NA – not available

(--) – zero