

# 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 AUGUST 18, 2019

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** While above average rainfall was received in and benefitted a limited number of extremely isolated locations, much of the State experienced another week of hot, dry weather which exacerbated poor conditions in already dry pastures and non-irrigated crop fields, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports from Union County noted that up to 3 inches of moisture was received in portions of the county during the week, aiding rangelands, the early-seeded 2020 winter wheat crop, and soil moisture levels ahead of additional small grain seeding. Elsewhere, comments included an extreme need for rainfall and cooler temperatures. In Curry County, it was noted that irrigated crops were in fair to good condition, while crops in dryland fields were in poor condition following persistent heat and high winds. Overall, 76 percent of the alfalfa hay was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 80 percent last week, 65 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 66 percent. The United States Drought Monitor released on August 15 noted that while the State remained free of exceptional, extreme, and severe drought (D4 – D2), moderate drought (D1) continued its hold on 13.3 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 48.2 percent of the State, an increase of 15.5 percentage points from last week, as below average moisture levels continued and drought-stress became unmistakable in additional pastures and non-irrigated crop fields. Drought-free conditions were present across 51.2 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 38 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 36 percent last week, 30 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 45 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 21 percent good to excellent, compared with 18 percent last week, 6 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 10 percent light, 80 percent moderate, and 10 percent heavy, compared with 63 percent light, 35 percent moderate, and 2 percent heavy last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 2 percent light, 2 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 20 percent light and 2 percent moderate, compared with 22 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 27 percent very short, 35 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 33 percent very short, 28 percent short, 38 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested .....	74	65	94	94
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	45	35	63	62
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	12	NA	23	25
Chile				
Green harvested .....	20	12	49	34
Corn				
Silking .....	66	52	94	90
Doughed .....	12	2	38	39
Harvested for silage .....	6	NA	16	14
Cotton				
Squaring .....	88	82	93	96
Setting bolls .....	44	36	61	70
Peanuts				
Pegging .....	66	51	97	79

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 .....	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	15	20	35	20
Short .....	47	44	35	35
Adequate .....	37	33	28	39
Surplus .....	1	3	2	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	20	21	34	19
Short .....	50	50	46	33
Adequate .....	30	28	18	45
Surplus .....	--	1	2	3

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	--	6	2
Poor.....	1	3	9	6
Fair.....	22	17	20	26
Good.....	70	66	60	54
Excellent.....	6	14	5	12
Chile				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	--
Poor.....	5	1	8	5
Fair.....	34	31	29	34
Good.....	52	61	38	44
Excellent.....	9	6	25	17
Corn				
Very poor.....	2	--	2	2
Poor.....	9	6	4	3
Fair.....	43	48	31	23
Good.....	31	31	44	47
Excellent.....	15	15	19	25
Cotton				
Very poor.....	2	--	--	1
Poor.....	18	17	12	10
Fair.....	49	45	32	35
Good.....	24	27	51	44
Excellent.....	7	11	5	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	9	10	18	9
Poor.....	34	35	41	24
Fair.....	36	37	35	37
Good.....	18	16	5	25
Excellent.....	3	2	1	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	9	7	13	9
Fair.....	65	62	51	64
Good.....	26	31	36	25
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	1	3	1
Fair.....	5	8	7	13
Good.....	50	45	65	63
Excellent.....	45	46	25	22
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	3	2	1
Poor.....	11	10	7	4
Fair.....	47	44	49	38
Good.....	30	35	37	50
Excellent.....	10	8	5	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	8	6	18	13
Poor.....	10	10	6	12
Fair.....	41	37	32	25
Good.....	40	43	42	46
Excellent.....	1	4	2	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero