

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 AUGUST 25, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Portions of the State received much-needed rainfall during the week, although dry conditions expanded their reach as the measurable precipitation that fell in many areas was below average, and did little to help improve soil moisture levels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Comments from reporters in numerous counties noted that hot, dry weather persisted, leaving crops struggling to develop normally, and stock tanks empty or with extremely low water levels. In Curry County, producers were busy harvesting corn silage and seeding the 2020 winter wheat crop in fields with irrigation capabilities or in dryland fields where soil moisture was above average. A report from Eddy County indicated that some spotty showers moved across the area during the week, but that there was little crop or grass response due to the limited amount of total accumulation. Additionally, the hot afternoon temperatures were driving cattle into any available shade. By week's end, 35 percent of the green chile crop was harvested, well behind both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 75 percent of the alfalfa hay was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 76 percent last week, 57 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 62 percent. The United States Drought Monitor released on August 22 noted that while the State remained free of exceptional, extreme, and severe drought (D4 – D2), moderate drought (D1) expanded its hold to cover 18.7 percent of the State, an increase of 5.4 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought now extends from the northern border in San Juan County down through the western counties well into Hidalgo County, with pieces of Dona Ana, Otero, and Lea Counties included as well. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 49.2 percent of the State, an increase of 1 percentage point from last week, as rainfall remained extremely spotty, even within counties. Drought-free conditions were present across 50.8 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 32 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 38 percent last week, 35 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 47 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 22 percent good to excellent, compared with 21 percent last week, 9 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 32 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 5 percent light, 88 percent moderate, and 6 percent heavy, compared with 60 percent light and 40 percent moderate last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 1 percent moderate, compared with 1 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 20 percent light and 2 percent moderate last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 28 percent very short, 39 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 27 percent very short, 35 percent short, 37 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 rd cutting harvested	81	74	NA	NA
4 th cutting harvested	60	45	73	72
5 th cutting harvested	20	12	31	33
Chile				
Green harvested	35	20	53	45
Corn				
Silking	80	66	NA	NA
Doughed	36	12	64	54
Dented	10	NA	24	19
Harvested for silage	17	6	26	23
Cotton				
Squaring	92	88	96	98
Setting bolls	49	44	67	78
Bolls opening	1	NA	8	13
Peanuts				
Pegging	74	66	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	7	NA	10	3

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	6.6	6.3	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	22	15	30	19
Short	46	47	35	34
Adequate	30	37	33	43
Surplus	2	1	2	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	22	20	34	20
Short	51	50	40	30
Adequate	27	30	24	47
Surplus	--	--	2	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	1	10	3
Poor.....	2	1	8	7
Fair.....	23	22	25	28
Good.....	66	70	52	50
Excellent.....	9	6	5	12
Chile				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	7	5	NA	NA
Fair.....	33	34	NA	NA
Good.....	59	52	NA	NA
Excellent.....	1	9	NA	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	2	1	2
Poor.....	8	9	6	4
Fair.....	47	43	32	25
Good.....	30	31	46	44
Excellent.....	14	15	15	25
Cotton				
Very poor.....	2	2	--	1
Poor.....	17	18	15	11
Fair.....	48	49	29	35
Good.....	24	24	49	43
Excellent.....	9	7	7	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	9	10	8
Poor.....	29	34	43	23
Fair.....	38	36	38	37
Good.....	15	18	8	26
Excellent.....	7	3	1	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	9	9	18	9
Fair.....	65	65	52	63
Good.....	26	26	30	26
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	--	5	2
Fair.....	3	5	6	11
Good.....	45	50	69	65
Excellent.....	52	45	20	21
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	--	2	--	1
Poor.....	12	11	9	4
Fair.....	56	47	45	38
Good.....	24	30	39	50
Excellent.....	8	10	7	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	8	15	13
Poor.....	3	10	1	11
Fair.....	48	41	37	26
Good.....	48	40	45	46
Excellent.....	1	1	2	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero