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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Measurable moisture remained exceptionally isolated during the week, promoting the intensification of drought conditions in some areas, and allowing abnormal dryness to expand to a larger portion of the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The hot, dry weather allowed time for an ample amount of fieldwork during the week, and by week's end, 53 percent of the green chile crop was harvested, nearly equaling both last year and the 5-year average. Winter wheat was being seeded ahead of the average pace, as producers took advantage of any available soil moisture, whether that be irrigation or from natural sources. Alfalfa hay was being harvested Statewide. Overall, 75 percent of the alfalfa hay was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 75 percent last week, 60 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 63 percent. The United States Drought Monitor released on August 29 noted that while the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4), severe drought (D2) was reintroduced for the first time since May 14. Categorically, severe drought covered 2.9 percent of the State, with an area centered over San Juan County that extends slightly into northern McKinley County and western Rio Arriba and Sandoval Counties. Moderate drought (D1) expanded its hold to cover 25.6 percent of the State, an increase of 6.9 percentage points from last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 59.9 percent of the State, an increase of 10.7 percentage points from last week, as rainfall across the majority of the State remained extremely spotty, with accumulations within counties varied tremendously. Drought-free conditions were present across 40.1 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 32 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 32 percent last week, 37 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 49 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 27 percent good to excellent, compared with 22 percent last week, 14 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 9 percent light, 80 percent moderate, and 10 percent heavy, compared with 50 percent light, 45 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 2 percent light and 1 percent moderate last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 6 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 15 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 33 percent very short, 36 percent short, 29 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 28 percent very short, 39 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3rd cutting harvested	90	81	NA	NA
4th cutting harvested	75	60	80	79
5th cutting harvested	30	20	37	39
Chile				
Green harvested..	53	35	58	58
Corn				
Silked	87	80	NA	NA
Doughed	45	36	74	67
Dented	25	10	40	31
Harvested for silage..	27	17	33	34
Cotton				
Squaring	98	92	NA	NA
Setting bolls...	57	49	76	84
Bolls opening	8	1	12	22
Peanuts				
Pegging..	94	74	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted...	23	7	22	9

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	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short...	22	22	22	16
Short..	46	46	41	35
Adequate	30	30	32	45
Surplus	2	2	5	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short...	22	22	36	18
Short..	51	51	34	29
Adequate	27	27	27	50
Surplus	--	--	3	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	--	15	4
Poor	4	2	5	7
Fair	20	23	20	26
Good	60	66	50	48
Excellent	15	9	10	15
Chile				
Very poor	--	--	NA	NA
Poor	6	7	NA	NA
Fair	35	33	NA	NA
Good	53	59	NA	NA
Excellent	6	1	NA	NA
Corn				
Very poor	--	1	--	2
Poor	8	8	7	4
Fair	48	47	40	27
Good	28	30	40	44
Excellent	16	14	13	23
Cotton				
Very poor	1	2	--	1
Poor	18	17	10	9
Fair	48	48	32	34
Good	22	24	50	43
Excellent	11	9	8	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor	16	11	10	7
Poor	26	29	36	22
Fair	31	38	40	38
Good	22	15	12	28
Excellent	5	7	2	5
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	9	9	10	8
Fair	65	65	60	66
Good	26	26	30	24
Excellent	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	1
Fair	2	3	4	11
Good	39	45	78	67
Excellent	59	52	18	21
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	1	--	--	1
Poor	13	12	10	5
Fair	50	56	41	36
Good	30	24	41	52
Excellent	6	8	8	6
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	1	--	10	11
Poor	7	3	1	11
Fair	40	48	35	24
Good	50	48	52	50
Excellent	2	1	2	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero