

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 15, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A good portion of the western half of the State received above average rainfall during the week, although the total accumulation in most areas was less than 0.5 inch which did little to alleviate the dry conditions that have been present for a while, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Crops in irrigated fields remained in good condition overall, while grasses on rangelands were dry and not extremely nutrient-filled. Reports suggested that the high temperatures were cooling off somewhat, which will reduce some of the stress on crops and livestock. Producers were busy harvesting alfalfa hay, seeding winter wheat, and preparing equipment for the row crop harvests. Statewide, the green chile harvest showed a healthy increase during the week, allowing progress to jump slightly ahead of last year. Overall, 73 percent of the alfalfa hay was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 73 percent last week, 65 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 60 percent. The United States Drought Monitor released on September 12 noted that while the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4), severe drought (D2) was present across 6.8 percent of the State, an increase of 3.9 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought (D1) covered 26.5 percent of the State, a slight decrease when compared with last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 58.3 percent of the State, an increase of 1.1 percentage points from last week, a result of the expansion of the area categorized in severe drought. Drought-free conditions were present across 41.7 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 34 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 26 percent last week, 45 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 48 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 27 percent good to excellent, compared with 25 percent last week, 13 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 35 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 10 percent light, 69 percent moderate, and 20 percent heavy, compared with 35 percent light, 50 percent moderate, and 15 percent heavy last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe, compared with 2 percent light, 2 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 8 percent light, 6 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 6 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 28 percent very short, 36 percent short, 35 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 30 percent very short, 38 percent short, 30 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
4 th cutting harvested	95	90	93	95
5 th cutting harvested	55	40	63	59
6 th cutting harvested	14	NA	20	15
Chile				
Green harvested.....	72	60	71	79
Corn				
Doughed	72	57	90	88
Dented	56	39	69	63
Mature	29	12	41	24
Harvested for silage.....	49	35	52	54
Cotton				
Setting bolls.....	80	69	91	94
Bolls opening	27	17	24	36
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	49	30	44	34
Emerged	21	3	24	8

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	6.7	7.0	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	22	25	19	15
Short.....	44	49	36	37
Adequate	30	25	43	45
Surplus	4	1	2	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	20	25	46	19
Short.....	50	50	30	31
Adequate	30	25	23	48
Surplus	--	--	1	2

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.....	--	--	16	4
Poor	2	3	5	9
Fair.....	25	24	14	27
Good	58	58	54	46
Excellent.....	15	15	11	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	3	--	2
Poor	5	8	2	2
Fair.....	40	45	32	25
Good	35	30	48	47
Excellent.....	20	14	18	24
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	2	--	1
Poor	18	20	8	10
Fair.....	45	43	27	34
Good	22	24	59	44
Excellent.....	14	11	6	11
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	13	18	14	7
Poor	25	28	37	21
Fair.....	35	29	36	37
Good	17	20	12	29
Excellent.....	10	5	1	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	10	9	18	10
Fair.....	65	65	52	64
Good	25	26	30	24
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	--
Fair.....	2	2	--	10
Good	54	45	84	68
Excellent.....	44	53	16	22
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor	16	14	6	5
Fair.....	42	50	40	33
Good	30	22	40	53
Excellent.....	11	13	14	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	4	--	10
Poor	4	8	8	13
Fair.....	34	36	34	24
Good	51	42	56	50
Excellent.....	10	10	2	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero