

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 OCTOBER 6, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average rainfall was welcomed throughout most of the southern and eastern portions of the State during the week, with the heaviest accumulations evident in several centrally located counties along the New Mexico-Texas border, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Comments from Chaves County noted 2-6 inches of rain in the area, which brought fieldwork to a standstill and filled most stock water resources. Similar rainfall totals were noted in neighboring counties as well. In Curry County, reports indicated that flooding may force some producers to reseed their 2020 winter wheat acreage. Additionally, the rain was expected to lead to quality issues with the most recently cut alfalfa crop. Elsewhere, below average moisture in many northwestern counties forced some ranchers to start looking for winter pastures with available stock water supplies, while others were planning on hauling water to their herds. Early reports from Rio Arriba and Taos Counties suggested that a fairly decent hay crop would provide an adequate feed supply throughout the winter feeding season. Reports from Grant and Luna Counties noted that while recent rains helped to fill stock water supplies and green up some pasture grasses, the weak monsoon season forced many ranchers to sell off a larger portion of their herd when compared with normal culling levels. The green and red chile harvests slowed during the week, with 94 and 6 percent reported as harvested by week's end, compared with 96 and 19 percent on average, respectively. Producers began harvesting the corn for grain crop during the week, with progress behind last year's and the average pace. The United States Drought Monitor released on October 3 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, unchanged from last week. Moderate drought (D1) now covered 23.0 percent of the State, a decrease of 2.9 percentage points when compared with last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 62.7 percent of the State, an increase of 4.7 percentage points from last week, as the area categorized as abnormally dry (D0) continued to expand due to the lack of meaningful rainfall for areas along the northern border. Drought-free conditions were present across 37.3 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 49 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 41 percent last week, 58 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 54 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 23 percent good to excellent, compared with 25 percent last week, 13 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 38 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 14 percent light, 58 percent moderate, and 28 percent heavy, compared with 20 percent light, 68 percent moderate, and 12 percent heavy last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 7 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, compared with 2 percent light last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 8 percent light and 3 percent moderate, compared with 8 percent light and 5 percent moderate last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 20 percent very short, 30 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 23 percent very short, 37 percent short, 39 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				
5 th cutting harvested.....	97	88	95	88
6 th cutting harvested.....	58	42	54	44
Chile				
Green harvested.....	94	92	94	96
Red harvested.....	6	1	16	19
Corn				
Doughed.....	95	88	NA	NA
Dented.....	81	76	89	89
Mature.....	66	56	64	62
Harvested for grain.....	3	--	12	4
Harvested for silage.....	71	67	83	83
Cotton				
Bolls opening.....	60	49	60	68
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	5	2	7	13
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	85	81	88	76
Emerged.....	59	44	79	47

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.....	5.4	6.8	6.4	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	16	18	14
Short.....	34	43	24	32
Adequate.....	45	40	57	50
Surplus.....	4	1	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	22	20	31	15
Short.....	41	50	35	29
Adequate.....	36	30	33	54
Surplus.....	1	--	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.....	1	1	19	4
Poor	8	1	10	8
Fair.....	34	35	13	27
Good	52	51	45	48
Excellent.....	5	12	13	13
Corn				
Very poor.....	2	1	--	1
Poor	5	5	3	3
Fair.....	34	35	35	25
Good	35	30	44	46
Excellent.....	24	29	18	25
Cotton				
Very poor.....	1	3	--	1
Poor	11	12	9	10
Fair.....	46	41	30	36
Good	32	31	53	43
Excellent.....	10	13	8	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	18	10	18	8
Poor	28	25	27	18
Fair.....	31	40	42	36
Good	15	10	11	31
Excellent.....	8	15	2	7
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	9	7	18	10
Fair.....	65	61	60	65
Good	26	32	22	23
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	1
Fair.....	2	1	2	10
Good	46	45	83	69
Excellent.....	52	54	15	20
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor	17	13	8	5
Fair.....	51	48	30	29
Good	21	21	45	55
Excellent.....	11	18	16	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	1	10	14
Poor	5	6	10	15
Fair.....	45	43	29	21
Good	39	38	50	47
Excellent.....	10	12	1	3

NA – not available

(--)- zero