

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 20, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Measurable moisture was scarce during the week, with trace amounts noted in a limited number of isolated locations, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were near-normal in most areas. Statewide, comments indicated dire moisture levels that have left pasture grasses, as well as stock water levels in less than adequate condition as winter approaches. Ranchers were already hauling water to their herds due to low or dry ponds. In Mora County, reports indicated that soils were dry to a depth of 3-4 feet depending on location. Supplemental feeding was evident for a larger percentage of the cattle herd when compared with last year. In some cases, ranchers chose to reduce their herd sizes rather than try to find feedstuffs throughout the winter. Row crop farmers remained busy harvesting corn, cotton, and peanuts. Chile growers aggressively harvested the red chile crop, although overall progress remained a little over a week behind normal. The United States Drought Monitor released on October 17 noted that while the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4), severe drought (D2) was present across 7.6 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Moderate drought (D1) covered 10.5 percent of the State, also unchanged when compared with last week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 54.6 percent of the State, an increase of 14.6 percentage points from last week, as the area categorized as abnormally dry (D0) continued to expand to include much of the northern half of the State due to the prolonged lack of meaningful rainfall. Drought-free conditions were present across 45.4 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 46 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 55 percent last week, 64 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 55 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 18 percent good to excellent, compared with 21 percent last week, 12 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 15 percent light, 50 percent moderate, and 35 percent heavy, compared with 15 percent light, 65 percent moderate, and 20 percent heavy last year. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light, compared with 2 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 3 percent light and 2 percent moderate, compared with 9 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 25 percent short, and 50 percent adequate, compared with 19 percent very short, 21 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus last week. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 41 percent very short, 21 percent short, 36 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 4 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 63 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
6 th cutting harvested	92	87	74	68
Chile				
Red harvested	25	10	26	41
Corn				
Dented	89	86	NA	NA
Mature	81	76	81	80
Harvested for grain.....	17	10	24	19
Harvested for silage.....	90	77	95	93
Cotton				
Bolls opening	90	79	76	84
Harvested.....	7	--	10	14
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	35	15	32	35
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	95	90	95	93
Emerged	85	75	89	81
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	55	NA	47	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	48	NA	48	NA

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	6.8	6.2	5.1	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	15	10	11	13
Short.....	39	35	25	32
Adequate	45	54	55	50
Surplus	1	1	9	55
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	18	15	20	13
Short.....	42	39	35	29
Adequate	40	45	42	56
Surplus	--	1	3	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)
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	1
Poor.....	15	7	1	2
Fair.....	42	39	33	25
Good.....	29	37	50	47
Excellent.....	13	16	16	25
Cotton				
Very poor.....	2	3	--	1
Poor.....	18	19	7	10
Fair.....	49	45	42	40
Good.....	24	26	48	41
Excellent.....	7	7	3	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	14	9	18	8
Poor.....	32	33	32	20
Fair.....	36	37	38	36
Good.....	14	16	12	30
Excellent.....	4	5	--	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	9	7	4	7
Fair.....	65	61	65	67
Good.....	26	32	29	25
Excellent.....	--	--	2	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	--	--	1	--
Fair.....	1	4	6	11
Good.....	55	48	65	63
Excellent.....	44	48	28	26
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	1	3	1
Poor.....	15	9	15	9
Fair.....	28	25	22	41
Good.....	48	56	47	38
Excellent.....	7	9	13	11
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	--	2	2
Poor.....	18	13	6	5
Fair.....	52	59	45	32
Good.....	24	22	41	53
Excellent.....	5	6	6	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	2	--	18	15
Poor.....	6	5	10	15
Fair.....	47	41	23	19
Good.....	40	48	48	47
Excellent.....	5	6	1	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero