

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 MONTH OF DECEMBER 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With little to no improvement in precipitation received during December, soil moisture levels continued to drop and supplemental livestock feeding continued to increase, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports from several counties noted that the wheat crop – both irrigated and non-irrigated – was suffering due to the lack of moisture. In Union County, comments suggested that producers could not keep enough irrigation water on their wheat fields, and some fear the crop will not survive without improved natural moisture. With stock water depleted and hay supplies limited, ranchers across the State were choosing to partially or entirely cull their herds. Where available, cattle were turned onto winter grazing. Converted monthly moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 3 inches to merely a trace, with widespread dryness across many eastern counties. Areas with above average precipitation were confined to northern, more mountainous counties. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 29, the entire State was suffering from moderate drought or worse. Moderate drought (D1) was present across less than 1 percent of the State. Severe drought (D2) covered 17.3 percent of the State, compared with 20.4 percent on November 24. Extreme drought (D3) was present across 29.1 percent of New Mexico, compared with 28.3 percent on November 24. Exceptional drought (D4) continued to expand, and now covered 64,680 square miles, or 53.2 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 90 percent short to very short, compared with 82 percent on November 29. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 30 percent adequate, compared with 20 percent very short, 52 percent short, and 28 percent adequate on November 29. Stock water supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 24 percent short, and 38 percent adequate, compared with 25 percent very short, 49 percent short, and 26 percent adequate on November 29.

Note: Monthly reports will be released for January on Monday, January 25, 2021; for February on Monday, February 22, 2021; and for March on Monday, March 29, 2021.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Red harvested.....	97	92	93	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain.....	99	88	99	NA
Cotton				
Harvested.....	99	83	97	NA
Pecans				
Harvested.....	87	17	49	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	87	78	76	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	85	84	77	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	58	36	17	NA
Short	32	46	45	NA
Adequate.....	6	15	34	NA
Surplus.....	4	3	4	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	59	45	26	NA
Short	31	44	48	NA
Adequate.....	6	9	25	NA
Surplus.....	4	2	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	NA
Poor	3	7	--	NA
Fair.....	7	28	3	NA
Good	90	63	25	NA
Excellent.....	--	1	72	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	15	1	--	NA
Poor	22	66	19	NA
Fair.....	14	24	44	NA
Good	28	3	35	NA
Excellent.....	21	6	2	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	18	1	1	NA
Poor	12	16	21	NA
Fair.....	36	50	37	NA
Good	17	25	28	NA
Excellent.....	17	8	13	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	39	1	1	NA
Poor	11	16	9	NA
Fair.....	18	42	55	NA
Good	29	41	35	NA
Excellent.....	3	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero