

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
 March 30, 2020

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Weather conditions varied greatly between the northern and southern portions of the State during March, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Below average moisture plagued most northern counties, while much of the south accumulated precipitation totaling 200 percent or more above normal. Statewide, temperatures were warmer than normal during the month. Reports from Rio Arriba and Taos Counties indicated that conditions remained dry following only light rain and snow showers, which has resulted in ranchers continuing to haul supplemental hay, feed, and water to their livestock. Elsewhere, it was noted that not only native pastures, but wheat fields as well, were in very good condition compared with the past several years, which has allowed producers to graze livestock for an extended period of time. In Curry County, reports indicated that some wheat fields were being harvested for silage. The United States Drought Monitor released on March 26 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) covered 11.4 percent of the State, unchanged from late-February conditions. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 14.9 percent – showed a 2.2 percentage point decrease from February 25. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 44.3 percent of the State, an improvement of 11.5 percentage points from February 25 conditions. Drought-free conditions were present across 55.7 percent of the State, the highest rating since early-October. In addition to native pastures, corn, hay, sorghum, and wheat are the main crops produced in the drought-affected areas, which could be weighing heavily on producer’s minds as they finalize their planting intentions, and gear up to plant their 2020 crops. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 43 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 51 percent last month. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 14 percent very short, 40 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 24 percent very short, 22 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 59 percent adequate, compared with 4 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 70 percent adequate last month.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 6, 2020.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	2	NA	5	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	15	NA	21	NA
Emerged	5	NA	5	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	30	19	29	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	86	84	85	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	30	20	18	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	74	74	71	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	23	18	12	NA
Short	34	31	52	NA
Adequate.....	42	50	34	NA
Surplus.....	1	1	2	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	22	21	31	NA
Short	37	35	37	NA
Adequate.....	41	44	31	NA
Surplus.....	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	1	NA	--	NA
Poor	2	NA	3	NA
Fair.....	45	NA	63	NA
Good	47	NA	33	NA
Excellent.....	5	NA	1	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	10	5	NA
Poor	3	20	44	NA
Fair.....	53	55	26	NA
Good	34	15	22	NA
Excellent.....	9	--	3	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	1	--	1	NA
Poor	6	5	18	NA
Fair.....	39	47	52	NA
Good	49	41	23	NA
Excellent.....	5	7	6	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	--	1	--	NA
Poor	11	3	16	NA
Fair.....	39	31	57	NA
Good	47	65	27	NA
Excellent.....	3	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero