

# 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 APRIL 12, 2020

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Measurable moisture continued to be extremely limited across New Mexico, with the largest accumulations – less than one inch – centered over Roosevelt County, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Soil moisture decreased as a result of a 14-day period where precipitation totals equaled 25 percent or more below average for most counties. During that same timeframe, recorded temperatures have been warmer than normal virtually Statewide, and high winds have plagued certain locations. A late-week storm delivered a significant drop in temperatures, with overnight lows in some areas falling below the freezing mark. Reports from Union County indicated there was some concern that the winter wheat crop was developed to a point that could result in freeze damage. In Curry County, the dryland wheat crop was reported in fair to good condition, while irrigated wheat was good to excellent. Pastures were starting to show signs of spring green up, and the normal concern over a high population of loco weed was noted. Field preparation was limited in certain areas of the northeast, as producers waited for better planting conditions. Some cattle suitable for use on grass were being sold, but in most cases, the recent market downturn left ranchers waiting for the opportunity to make better yields on their sales. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 9 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) expanded slightly to cover 11.8 percent of the State, an increase of 0.4 percentage point from the previous report. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 14.6 percent – showed a 0.3 percentage point decrease from the previous report. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 44.5 percent of the State, up slightly from conditions last week. Drought-free conditions were present across 55.5 percent of the State. In addition to native pastures, corn, hay, sorghum, and wheat are the main crops produced in the drought-affected areas. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 45 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 47 percent last week, 36 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 32 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 17 percent good to excellent, compared with 20 percent last week, 35 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 45 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 10 percent very short, 43 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 58 percent adequate, compared with 9 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 59 percent adequate last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	7	NA	5	3
Chile				
Planted.....	38	22	46	53
Emerged .....	3	NA	1	9
Corn				
Planted.....	5	NA	1	3
Cotton				
Planted.....	12	2	1	10
Onions				
Planted.....	49	35	58	78
Emerged .....	35	21	23	50
Winter wheat				
Headed .....	3	NA	2	9
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	48	39	60	59
Receiving supplemental feed.....	82	80	80	79
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed .....	44	36	49	51
Receiving supplemental feed.....	75	70	75	67

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.....	6.6	6.7	5.9	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	30	27	12	21
Short.....	25	26	52	47
Adequate.....	45	46	35	31
Surplus.....	--	1	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	30	25	26	17
Short.....	30	31	41	41
Adequate.....	40	44	33	42
Surplus.....	--	--	--	--

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.....	5	2	2	--
Poor.....	4	2	3	5
Fair.....	38	45	47	46
Good.....	50	47	47	39
Excellent.....	3	4	1	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	10	12	7	8
Poor.....	16	12	15	19
Fair.....	57	56	43	43
Good.....	17	20	34	26
Excellent.....	--	--	1	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	4	5
Poor.....	3	1	29	25
Fair.....	44	50	23	33
Good.....	41	40	39	33
Excellent.....	11	8	5	4
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	9	5	2	2
Poor.....	6	7	19	7
Fair.....	34	36	47	45
Good.....	42	42	24	42
Excellent.....	9	10	8	4
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	1	5	1	10
Poor.....	13	12	5	12
Fair.....	39	36	55	31
Good.....	46	45	39	46
Excellent.....	1	2	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero