

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004
 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Longino Bustillos
 (800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Welcomed rain fell nearly Statewide, ranging from just a trace to nearly 2 inches, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Despite the bump in precipitation, soil moisture levels decreased slightly since conditions have been so dry in recent weeks – the rainfall was quickly absorbed. In many areas, comments noted that pastures showed very little new growth, and ranchers were still providing supplemental feed to their cattle. Reports indicated that producers in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties were scheduling their irrigation with the acequias. In Union County, producers were busy planting corn and sorghum, although some fields were still being grazed or laying fallow. Additionally, cattle had been pulled from dryland wheat fields in the area, and the crop was reported in poor condition. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 16 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) expanded slightly to cover 11.9 percent of the State, or roughly 14,430 square miles. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 12.5 percent – showed a 2.0 percentage point decrease from the previous report. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 43.3 percent of the State, down 1.5 percentage points from conditions last week. Drought-free conditions were present across 56.7 percent of the State. The reported drought conditions were reported across the northern half 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 43 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 45 percent last week, 37 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 32 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 20 percent good to excellent, compared with 17 percent last week, 36 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 29 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 16 percent light and 13 percent moderate. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 32 percent light, 9 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 46 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 10 percent very short, 45 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 10 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 58 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 st cutting harvested	16	7	12	12
Chile				
Planted	49	38	57	67
Emerged	4	3	9	24
Corn				
Planted	19	5	12	15
Cotton				
Planted	18	12	8	19
Onions				
Planted	63	49	72	86
Emerged	47	35	48	67
Winter wheat				
Headed	16	3	6	27
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	61	48	71	74
Receiving supplemental feed	84	82	79	77
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	63	44	59	68
Receiving supplemental feed	70	75	79	77

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	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	30	30	11	21
Short	27	25	52	47
Adequate	43	45	36	31
Surplus	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	32	30	20	16
Short	33	30	43	43
Adequate	35	40	37	41
Surplus	--	--	--	--

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	1	5	2	1
Poor	1	4	3	5
Fair.....	42	38	40	43
Good.....	50	50	51	41
Excellent	6	3	4	10
Pasture and range				
Very poor	10	10	8	10
Poor	19	16	20	21
Fair.....	51	57	36	40
Good.....	19	17	34	25
Excellent	1	--	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	3	5
Poor	7	3	27	26
Fair.....	49	44	27	34
Good.....	32	41	37	29
Excellent	11	11	6	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	9	9	3	3
Poor	4	6	13	6
Fair.....	33	34	45	44
Good.....	48	42	31	43
Excellent	6	9	8	4
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	5	1	1	11
Poor	11	13	4	12
Fair.....	35	39	47	30
Good.....	48	46	48	46
Excellent	1	1	--	1

NA – not available

(--)- zero