

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 26, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry weather returned to virtually all counties, with measureable moisture limited to trace amounts in most locations where rain did fall, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Above average temperatures dominated the week, and when coupled with forecasted highs over the next several days, resulted in fear that the limited early-spring pasture growth would suffer from drought stress. Reports from the northwest indicated that while irrigation from acequias was ongoing, signs indicated that water supplies could soon lessen. Freeze damage was noted in fruit and vegetable crops in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. Comments from Union County noted a small amount of rain fell during the week, although no benefit was seen from the moisture as pasture conditions deteriorated. Despite a lack of adequate pasture grass and the need to provide supplemental feed, ranchers were slow to move their cattle because the market is depressed. Additionally, intended corn acreage in Union County remained uncertain due to poor prices and dry soils. High winds resulted in soil moisture depletion in Curry and Lea Counties. Pecan trees in some Eddy County orchards were slow to come out of dormancy, possibly due to an early freeze during October that may have resulted in damage. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 23 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) expanded by 1.6 percentage points to cover 13.4 percent of the State. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 12.8 percent – showed a 0.3 percentage point increase from the previous report. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 43.8 percent of the State, or roughly 53,200 square miles. Drought-free conditions were present across 56.2 percent of the State. The reported drought conditions were confined to 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 37 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 43 percent last week, 35 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 34 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 23 percent good to excellent, compared with 20 percent last week, 32 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 27 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, 10 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 30 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 43 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 46 percent short, 41 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 11 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 66 percent adequate, compared with 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus 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	26	16	21	23
Chile				
Planted	67	49	68	75
Emerged	14	4	25	40
Corn				
Planted	27	19	24	28
Emerged	3	NA	1	1
Cotton				
Planted	26	18	17	30
Emerged	1	--	1	5
Onions				
Planted	74	63	79	91
Emerged	61	47	60	76
Winter wheat				
Headed	45	16	19	44
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	70	61	80	82
Receiving supplemental feed	83	84	68	72
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed	71	63	71	81
Receiving supplemental feed	65	70	70	70

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	6.9	6.7	6.4	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	34	30	12	20
Short	29	27	53	46
Adequate	37	43	35	33
Surplus	--	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	36	32	17	15
Short	33	33	41	41
Adequate	31	35	42	44
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	2	1	--	--
Poor	2	1	--	5
Fair.....	36	42	47	42
Good.....	54	50	46	42
Excellent	6	6	7	11
Onions				
Very poor	--	NA	--	--
Poor	--	NA	--	--
Fair.....	29	NA	--	9
Good.....	50	NA	16	49
Excellent	21	NA	84	42
Pasture and range				
Very poor	16	10	2	6
Poor	18	19	25	21
Fair.....	43	51	41	46
Good.....	22	19	30	24
Excellent	1	1	2	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	1	--	5
Poor	7	7	25	23
Fair.....	56	49	27	34
Good.....	26	32	33	29
Excellent	10	11	15	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	11	9	1	1
Poor	5	4	8	5
Fair.....	29	33	48	46
Good.....	48	48	36	44
Excellent	7	6	7	4
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	10	5	--	10
Poor	12	11	9	11
Fair.....	30	35	49	32
Good.....	45	48	40	46
Excellent	3	1	2	1

NA – not available

(--)- zero