

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 MAY 3, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry, windy weather continued its dominance across the State during the week, and when coupled with above average temperatures, kept many pastures and dryland crops from improving, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Ranchers in many areas were busy moving cattle to AUM land, and reports indicated that calving was still expected in some herds. Comments from Rio Arriba and Taos Counties noted that hay harvesting had yet to begin. In Union County, recently seeded hay grazer and sorghum were emerging, while dry soils continued to stress the dryland wheat crop. Dry conditions in Curry County allowed producers to quickly harvest the first cutting of hay, although some fields were having to be sprayed for pests. Additionally, some wheat fields in the area were being cut for either hay or silage. The lettuce crop in Dona Ana County was reported in excellent condition, with approximately 50 percent harvested. The United States Drought Monitor released on April 30 noted that the State remained free of exceptional and extreme drought (D3 and D4). Severe drought (D2) covered 13.4 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 12.8 percent – was also unchanged from the previous week. 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 36 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 37 percent last week, 38 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 20 percent good to excellent, compared with 23 percent last week, 29 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 28 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 13 percent light and 7 percent moderate. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 25 percent light and 2 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 40 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 43 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 64 percent adequate, compared with 11 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 66 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	35	26	32	34
Chile				
Planted	83	67	78	84
Emerg'd	42	14	39	53
Corn				
Planted	39	27	33	37
Emerg'd	7	3	6	6
Cotton				
Planted	38	26	32	41
Emerg'd	11	1	6	14
Onions				
Planted	80	74	85	95
Emerg'd	68	61	64	84
Peanuts				
Planted	5	NA	--	1
Winter wheat				
Headed	64	45	39	61
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	80	70	86	87
Receiving supplemental feed	77	83	66	74
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	83	71	82	88
Receiving supplemental feed	62	65	66	66

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	6.8	6.9	5.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	31	34	9	21
Short	33	29	53	46
Adequate	36	37	35	32
Surplus	--	--	3	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	33	36	20	17
Short	34	33	38	41
Adequate	33	31	42	42
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	2
Poor	2	2	4	4
Fair.....	36	36	43	37
Good.....	57	54	45	46
Excellent	5	6	7	11
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	--
Fair.....	30	29	--	5
Good.....	50	50	16	45
Excellent	20	21	84	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor	20	16	8	8
Poor	19	18	28	24
Fair.....	41	43	35	40
Good.....	19	22	26	24
Excellent	1	1	3	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	1	1	6
Poor	4	7	16	21
Fair.....	56	56	30	34
Good.....	26	26	42	33
Excellent	14	10	11	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	11	11	2	2
Poor	4	5	16	9
Fair.....	26	29	39	40
Good.....	49	48	34	44
Excellent	10	7	9	5
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	16	10	--	11
Poor	10	12	4	10
Fair.....	22	30	55	30
Good.....	50	45	39	48
Excellent	2	3	2	1

NA – not available

(--)- zero