

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
 May 11, 2020

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 10, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Mostly dry, windy weather prevailed across the State again this week, leading to further declines in both topsoil and subsoil moisture levels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports from several counties across all districts noted that dryness has hampered grass growth in many pastures. Comments from Rio Arriba County indicated that some producers lost their first cutting of alfalfa to grazing damage by elk herds. Irrigation supplies were slowing in portions of the northwest, with crops not yet receiving a full allotment of water. An increased number of wheat acres in Union County were being harvested for hay or wheat silage rather than grain due to less than ideal crop condition. Corn planting was slow, as farmers in several counties were reluctant to spend money on seed and fertilizer inputs when weighed against potential market prices. With the onset of this year's onion harvest approximately 2 weeks away, producers were concerned about the availability of hired labor to help pick the crop. The United States Drought Monitor released on May 7 indicated that extreme drought (D3) crept back into the State, as a dry area centered over south-central Colorado spread to cover 0.5 percent of Colfax and Taos Counties. Severe drought (D2) covered 15.0 percent of the State, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from last week. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 12.7 percent – was down slightly from the previous week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 47.4 percent of the State, or roughly 57,662 square miles. The reported drought conditions were mostly confined to the northern half of the State; however, abnormal dryness began to creep southward into Chaves County. In addition to native pastures, corn, cotton, hay, sorghum, and wheat are the main crops produced in the drought-affected areas. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 30 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 36 percent last week, 47 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 35 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 20 percent good to excellent, compared with 20 percent last week, 28 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 28 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 9 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 32 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 36 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 40 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 60 percent adequate, compared with 10 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 64 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	45	35	42	43
Chile				
Planted	90	83	88	91
Emerged	53	42	47	62
Corn				
Planted	53	39	42	46
Emerged	21	7	12	13
Cotton				
Planted	44	38	48	51
Emerged	20	11	17	28
Onions				
Planted	87	80	88	97
Emerged	78	68	67	89
Peanuts				
Planted	15	5	1	7
Winter wheat				
Headed	82	64	56	74
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	86	80	91	91
Receiving supplemental feed	79	77	57	61
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	89	83	91	93
Receiving supplemental feed	59	62	53	58

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	6.8	5.5	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	31	31	8	22
Short	39	33	45	43
Adequate	30	36	44	34
Surplus	--	--	3	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	30	33	17	18
Short	42	34	34	41
Adequate	28	33	48	41
Surplus	--	--	1	--

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	3
Poor	4	2	3	3
Fair.....	30	36	38	34
Good.....	56	57	47	48
Excellent	8	5	11	12
Chile				
Very poor	--	NA	NA	NA
Poor	--	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	53	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	45	NA	NA	NA
Excellent	2	NA	NA	NA
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	--
Fair.....	23	30	--	7
Good.....	57	50	16	42
Excellent	20	20	84	51
Pasture and range				
Very poor	12	20	10	10
Poor	21	19	29	23
Fair.....	47	41	33	39
Good.....	17	19	25	24
Excellent	3	1	3	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor	1	--	--	5
Poor	13	4	8	20
Fair.....	52	56	28	34
Good.....	24	26	47	32
Excellent	10	14	17	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	10	11	3	2
Poor	5	4	16	7
Fair.....	32	26	35	40
Good.....	45	49	38	46
Excellent	8	10	8	5
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	10	16	--	12
Poor	8	10	9	12
Fair.....	25	22	47	27
Good.....	55	50	44	48
Excellent	2	2	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero