

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 MAY 17, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: As daytime high temperatures climbed well into the upper 90s, rain fell on many locations during the week, varying from a trace to approximately an inch, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High winds remained a factor across many counties, quickly drying any moisture from soils. Beneficial rainfall was needed Statewide. Some fruit and vegetable crops in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties were lost due to freeze damage. As cattle were moved to summer grazing land, concerns were high for some ranchers because current grass and water availability would limit the time herds can spend on Federal and State lands. Poor grazing conditions and depleted feed and hay supplies left some ranchers contemplating herd reductions or possible liquidation. Fieldwork progressed slowly in several counties due to water and market concerns. The United States Drought Monitor released on May 14 indicated that extreme drought (D3) was unchanged from last week, covering 0.5 percent of the State. Severe drought (D2) now covered 16.3 percent of the State, an increase of 1.4 percentage points from last week. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) – currently 12.1 percent – was down 0.6 percentage points from the previous week. Overall, conditions rated abnormally dry or worse were evident across 46.8 percent of the State, or roughly 56,914 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 and Lea 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 23 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 30 percent last week, 50 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 41 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 18 percent good to excellent, compared with 20 percent last week, 32 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light and 1 percent moderate. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 36 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 9 percent very short, 35 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 8 percent very short, 36 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 54 percent adequate, compared with 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 60 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	56	45	54	54
2 nd cutting harvested	6	NA	2	NA
Chile				
Planted	93	90	94	94
Emerged	68	53	56	71
Corn				
Planted	58	53	53	58
Emerged	32	21	19	21
Cotton				
Planted	55	44	64	61
Emerged	25	20	27	37
Onions				
Planted	96	87	94	99
Emerged	85	78	72	91
Peanuts				
Planted	30	15	11	18
Winter wheat				
Headed	89	82	81	87
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	93	86	96	95
Receiving supplemental feed	78	79	58	61
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	95	89	95	NA
Receiving supplemental feed	56	59	47	56

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	6.7	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	39	31	10	21
Short	38	39	40	38
Adequate	23	30	45	39
Surplus	--	--	5	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	38	30	16	19
Short	40	42	37	36
Adequate	22	28	45	44
Surplus	--	--	2	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	2	--	3
Poor	8	4	--	1
Fair.....	29	30	33	31
Good.....	53	56	56	53
Excellent	8	8	11	12
Chile				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	--	--	1	6
Fair.....	46	53	37	26
Good.....	43	45	62	49
Excellent	11	2	--	18
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	--	--
Fair.....	18	23	--	7
Good.....	57	57	16	40
Excellent	25	20	84	53
Pasture and range				
Very poor	5	12	2	7
Poor	28	21	32	25
Fair.....	49	47	34	38
Good.....	17	17	31	25
Excellent	1	3	1	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	1	1	5
Poor	18	13	10	21
Fair.....	53	52	33	32
Good.....	20	24	45	34
Excellent	9	10	11	8
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	10	2	2
Poor	6	5	16	8
Fair.....	34	32	42	37
Good.....	53	45	34	47
Excellent	5	8	6	6
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	1	10	--	9
Poor	12	8	2	9
Fair.....	33	25	52	29
Good.....	52	55	46	52
Excellent	2	2	--	1

NA – not available

(--)- zero