

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 AUGUST 16, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: A weak monsoon brought spotty rainfall to the State during the week, leaving several areas completely dry while some isolated locations along the southeastern border totaled approximately 3 inches of moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures coupled with strong winds quickly dried the trace amounts of surface moisture received in many areas. Hay growers in the southeast had begun harvesting the fifth cutting of alfalfa. Reports from several outlets noted that many producers were continuing to store more hay than normal due to a lack of pasture grass, as well as depressed market prices. In Union County, growers were busy baling hay grazer, while winter wheat seeding was underway. Statewide, chile producers were busy harvesting green peppers, with progress advancing rapidly during the week despite several hardships that were affecting the industry. Reports indicated that a workforce shortage of nearly half left some growers scrambling to find laborers to help with the harvest. Additionally, some producers have seen a reduction in demand. The United States Drought Monitor released on August 13 indicated that extreme drought (D3) covered 15.0 percent of the State, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 36.8 percent of the State, both virtually unchanged from last week. The area classified in moderate drought (D1) was reported at 42.7 percent. Abnormal dryness plagued 5.4 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 85 percent short to very short, compared with 81 percent last week, 62 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 55 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 43 percent poor to very poor, compared with 38 percent last week, 43 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent light and 99 percent moderate, compared with 10 percent light, 80 percent moderate, and 10 percent heavy last year. Hail damage across all crops was reported as 3 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Wind damage across all crops was reported as 14 percent light and 1 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 16 percent very short, 37 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 11 percent very short, 36 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 27 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 38 percent adequate, compared with 21 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 41 percent adequate last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	73	60	71	88
4 th cutting harvested	44	32	42	53
5 th cutting harvested	3	NA	NA	NA
Chile				
Green harvested	35	18	18	29
Corn				
Silked	70	56	62	82
Doughed	30	7	9	29
Dented	3	NA	NA	NA
Cotton				
Squaring	95	91	86	92
Setting bolls	72	56	42	61
Peanuts				
Pegging	99	93	62	74
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	70	74	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	65	68	NA	NA

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	6.5	6.6	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	33	32	15	17
Short	52	49	47	38
Adequate	15	19	37	39
Surplus	--	--	1	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	39	42	20	17
Short	51	48	50	38
Adequate	10	10	30	43
Surplus	--	--	--	2

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	2
Poor	4	5	1	6
Fair.....	33	35	22	23
Good.....	48	45	70	58
Excellent.....	13	13	6	11
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	6	--	--
Poor	8	8	5	5
Fair.....	34	34	34	31
Good.....	43	52	52	46
Excellent.....	9	--	9	18
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	2
Poor	1	1	9	4
Fair.....	36	41	43	26
Good.....	29	30	31	46
Excellent.....	33	27	15	22
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	5	2	2
Poor	22	21	18	12
Fair.....	57	57	49	36
Good.....	12	13	24	43
Excellent.....	4	4	7	7
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	15	9	7
Poor	26	23	34	26
Fair.....	32	40	36	37
Good.....	19	16	18	25
Excellent.....	6	6	3	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	--
Poor	20	20	9	7
Fair.....	33	33	65	63
Good.....	42	42	26	29
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	--	--	1
Poor	1	1	--	1
Fair.....	26	27	5	7
Good.....	72	72	50	64
Excellent.....	--	--	45	27
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	8	2	1
Poor	7	8	11	5
Fair.....	37	44	47	37
Good.....	41	35	30	49
Excellent.....	13	5	10	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	17	9	8	11
Poor	15	10	10	9
Fair.....	35	40	41	27
Good.....	32	40	40	49
Excellent.....	1	1	1	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero