

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
 September 21, 2020

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Most of New Mexico experienced a very dry week, with limited precipitation confined to isolated locations in the southeast, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Average temperatures were cooler than normal across most areas, with overnight lows dipping below freezing in a few mountainous locations in Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. Reports from northwestern counties indicated that native pastures were extremely dry, with remarks that grass was wilting and production was low. Ranchers were busy weaning and selling calves with the hope of saving grass for winter and early-spring grazing. Comments from different counties in the northeast noted fall-like temperatures, but no moisture. Corn and sorghum were being harvested for grain and silage in Union County. Additionally, producers were busy planting triticale and winter wheat. A report from Roosevelt County indicated that last week's cold spell effectively halted plant growth for the season. Statewide, chile harvest – both green and red – continued ahead of the average pace. The United States Drought Monitor released on September 17 indicated that extreme drought (D3) remained entrenched across 31.7 percent of the State, down slightly as more land was categorized in moderate drought this week. Similarly, the area impacted by severe drought (D2) dropped to 32.5 percent, a difference of 1.6 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought (D1) increased to cover 35.6 percent of the State, while abnormal dryness (D0) was reduced to 0.2 percent of the State. With virtually the entire State in the grips of prolonged drought, an abundance of precipitation was needed to turn the tides of the poor conditions affecting operational decisions for both crop and livestock producers. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 91 percent short to very short, compared with 95 percent last week, 59 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 50 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 49 percent poor to very poor, compared with 54 percent last week, 35 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 27 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 3 percent light, 73 percent moderate, and 23 percent heavy, compared with 14 percent light, 62 percent moderate, and 23 percent heavy last year. Hail damage across all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage across all crops was reported as 10 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 44 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 15 percent very short, 44 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 20 percent very short, 44 percent short, and 36 percent adequate, compared with 23 percent very short, 43 percent short, 33 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				
4 th cutting harvested	97	87	NA	NA
5 th cutting harvested	44	33	69	65
6 th cutting harvested	8	NA	23	23
Chile				
Green harvested.....	85	75	73	82
Red harvested.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Silked	97	93	NA	NA
Doughed.....	86	79	79	89
Dented.....	70	60	65	68
Mature.....	45	33	38	31
Harvested for silage.....	75	55	55	60
Cotton				
Bolls opening	33	23	33	42
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	47	42	61	50
Emerged	25	22	32	21
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	76	79	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	70	75	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	5.9	6.6	6.1
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	38	40	23	13
Short.....	53	55	36	37
Adequate	9	5	38	47
Surplus	--	--	3	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	38	40	25	18
Short.....	48	50	45	32
Adequate	14	10	30	49
Surplus	--	--	--	1

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.....	1	2	--	3
Poor.....	1	5	3	7
Fair.....	33	33	30	24
Good.....	56	54	55	52
Excellent.....	9	6	12	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	1
Poor.....	1	2	7	3
Fair.....	41	40	34	28
Good.....	19	23	32	44
Excellent.....	38	34	25	24
Cotton				
Very poor.....	6	5	2	1
Poor.....	21	21	18	11
Fair.....	48	51	47	36
Good.....	17	16	23	44
Excellent.....	8	7	10	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	15	19	12	7
Poor.....	34	35	23	20
Fair.....	37	35	36	37
Good.....	12	10	12	28
Excellent.....	2	1	17	8
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	7	5	--	--
Poor.....	22	20	9	7
Fair.....	27	33	65	65
Good.....	44	42	26	27
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	--
Poor.....	4	4	--	--
Fair.....	32	30	2	5
Good.....	64	65	49	67
Excellent.....	--	--	49	28
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	10	10	--	1
Poor.....	9	11	15	6
Fair.....	43	45	44	34
Good.....	30	28	21	49
Excellent.....	8	6	20	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	10	13	--	9
Poor.....	7	12	4	10
Fair.....	31	25	41	24
Good.....	49	45	46	51
Excellent.....	3	5	9	6

NA – not available

(--)- zero