

# 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 MONTH OF MARCH 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Precipitation received since March 1 has been below average for much of the State, although there were some pockets stretching from central New Mexico up to the northeastern corner of the State that accumulated above average moisture, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The limited moisture totals continued to prohibit any meaningful improvement of soil moisture levels or winter wheat condition. The first alfalfa condition rating noted that 17 percent of the crop was in good to excellent condition, compared with 52 percent last year. Supplemental feeding rates remained distinctly higher than last year. Producers were busy planting the 2021 chile and onion crops ahead of last year's pace. Reports from Union County noted some pasture grass green up following recent moisture. Farmers in the area were busy watering corn and wheat fields, and preparing fields for spring crop planting. Roosevelt County comments indicated extreme dryness, while Mora County reports noted a good, wet snow last week. In Lea County, excessively strong winds damaged power lines in some rural areas, leaving people without power for 2-3 days. Statewide, 88 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in very poor to poor condition, compared with 65 percent at the end of February and 4 percent in March 2020. For the period of March 1 – March 28, converted monthly moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – varied drastically around the State, ranging from approximately 6 inches in an extremely isolated area of northeastern Cibola County to merely a trace across much of southern New Mexico. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 23, moderate drought or worse continued to plague virtually the entire State. Severe drought (D2) covered 19.5 percent of the State, and extreme drought (D3) remained entrenched across 26.8 percent. Exceptional drought (D4) stabilized somewhat, and now covered 64,901 square miles, or 53.4 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 84 percent short to very short, compared with 86 percent at the end of February and 57 percent at the end of March last year. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 28 percent adequate, compared with 40 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 21 percent adequate at the end of February. Stock water supplies were reported as 50 percent very short, 22 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 23 percent very short, 42 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus at the end of February.

**Note:** The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 5, 2021.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	8	NA	2	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	20	NA	15	NA
Emerged .....	10	NA	5	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	40	14	30	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	90	93	86	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed .....	40	19	30	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	89	87	74	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short .....	53	60	23	NA
Short .....	31	26	34	NA
Adequate.....	14	12	42	NA
Surplus.....	2	2	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	59	67	22	NA
Short .....	34	29	37	NA
Adequate.....	6	3	41	NA
Surplus.....	1	1	--	NA

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION**

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor .....	--	NA	1	NA
Poor .....	5	NA	2	NA
Fair.....	78	NA	45	NA
Good .....	15	NA	47	NA
Excellent .....	2	NA	5	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	64	28	1	NA
Poor .....	24	37	3	NA
Fair.....	4	21	53	NA
Good .....	3	14	34	NA
Excellent .....	5	--	9	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor .....	2	12	1	NA
Poor .....	17	13	6	NA
Fair.....	42	39	39	NA
Good .....	31	31	49	NA
Excellent .....	8	5	5	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor .....	25	47	--	NA
Poor .....	8	18	11	NA
Fair.....	31	21	39	NA
Good .....	36	14	47	NA
Excellent .....	--	--	3	NA

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero