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 APRIL 4, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures coupled with extremely high wind speeds worked to quickly dry out soil moisture levels that showed slight improvement following late-March precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Comments from counties in the northeast indicated that pasture grasses had begun showing signs of new growth; however, overgrazing was widespread due to hay shortages resulting from long-term supplemental feeding needs. Statewide, 60 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 24 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 25 percent. Farmers remained busy preparing for the 2021 growing season. Where available, irrigation water was being applied to winter wheat. During the past week, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – were extremely limited, ranging from approximately 0.5 inch to merely a trace, with much of the State remaining dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 1, moderate drought or worse continued to plague the entire State. Less than 1 percent of the State was categorized in moderate drought (D1). Severe drought (D2) continued to cover 19.5 percent of the State, and extreme drought (D3) was entrenched across 26.5 percent. Exceptional drought (D4) stabilized somewhat, and now covered 64,708 square miles, or 53.3 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 80 percent short to very short, compared with 84 percent in the previous report, 53 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 40 percent short, and 25 percent adequate, compared with 38 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 28 percent adequate in the previous report. Stock water supplies were reported as 45 percent very short, 20 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 50 percent very short, 22 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus in the previous report.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Chile				
Planted	22	8	19	29
Onions				
Planted	34	20	32	51
Emerged	20	10	19	28
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	55	40	38	41
Receiving supplemental feed	87	90	80	79
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	55	40	35	33
Receiving supplemental feed	89	89	70	68

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	NA	6.7	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	47	53	27	23
Short	33	31	26	44
Adequate	19	14	46	32
Surplus	1	2	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	58	59	25	18
Short	34	34	31	42
Adequate	7	6	44	40
Surplus	1	1	--	--

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	--	2	1
Poor	4	5	2	6
Fair	70	78	45	49
Good	24	15	47	39
Excellent	2	2	4	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor	30	NA	12	8
Poor	30	NA	12	17
Fair	34	NA	56	48
Good	6	NA	20	25
Excellent	--	NA	--	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor	60	64	1	4
Poor	20	24	1	26
Fair	5	4	50	35
Good	5	3	40	29
Excellent	10	5	8	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	5	2	5	3
Poor	15	17	7	9
Fair	40	42	36	42
Good	25	31	42	40
Excellent	15	8	10	6
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	20	25	5	9
Poor	11	8	12	14
Fair	29	31	36	34
Good	40	36	45	42
Excellent	--	--	2	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero