

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 11, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Prolonged drought continued its stronghold across New Mexico, leaving many farmers and ranchers struggling with tough decisions about the course to take with their operations, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Overall, 62 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 26 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 28 percent. Reports from several counties in the northeast indicated that ranchers were contemplating total sellouts or drastic herd reductions, as supplemental feeding remains high and some summer grazing allotments on State or Federal lands have been reduced or removed. Statewide, growers were busy either preparing to plant or planting spring crops. Ranchers started branding calves. During the past week, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – were extremely limited and isolated to an area centered over the southwestern and northwestern corners of Catron and Grant Counties, respectively, ranging from approximately 1.0 inch to merely a trace, with much of the State remaining dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 6, moderate drought or worse continued its hold on the 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. Both categories were unchanged from the previous week. At 26.4 percent, a slight reduction was noted for the area classified in extreme drought (D3). Exceptional drought (D4) grew incrementally, and now covered 65,046 square miles, or 53.5 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 85 percent short to very short, compared with 55 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 68 percent. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 40 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 22 percent adequate, compared with 10 percent very short, 45 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 40 percent very short, 25 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 10 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 58 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested	1	NA	NA	NA
Chile				
Planted	34	22	36	44
Emerged	7	NA	NA	NA
Corn				
Planted	2	NA	NA	NA
Cotton				
Planted	3	--	11	9
Onions				
Planted	45	34	47	66
Emerged	30	20	33	45
Winter wheat				
Headed	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	65	55	47	57
Receiving supplemental feed	93	87	82	79
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	65	55	43	49
Receiving supplemental feed	91	89	75	66

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.....	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	50	47	30	24
Short	35	33	25	44
Adequate	14	19	45	31
Surplus	1	1	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	58	58	30	20
Short	35	34	30	42
Adequate	6	7	40	38
Surplus	1	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	2	--	5	1
Poor	5	4	4	6
Fair.....	64	70	38	48
Good.....	25	24	50	41
Excellent	4	2	3	4
Pasture and range				
Very poor	32	30	10	8
Poor	30	30	16	20
Fair.....	31	34	57	48
Good.....	7	6	17	23
Excellent	--	--	--	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor	55	60	1	5
Poor	20	20	3	25
Fair.....	5	5	44	33
Good.....	10	5	41	32
Excellent	10	10	11	5
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	10	5	9	4
Poor	15	15	6	8
Fair.....	35	40	34	42
Good.....	20	25	42	40
Excellent	20	15	9	6
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	25	20	1	6
Poor	10	11	13	11
Fair.....	25	29	39	37
Good.....	35	40	46	45
Excellent	5	--	1	1

NA – not available

(--)- zero