

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
 April 26, 2021

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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Concerns regarding the prolonged, widespread drought remained at the forefront for farmers and ranchers across the State, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Unusually dry weather continued its dominance, forcing some producers to delay row crop planting due to the lack of available soil moisture. The limited precipitation that has been received was not significant enough to reverse current dryness. Considering the costs of the inputs needed to produce a crop like corn or cotton, it is possible that some producers could opt to not plant this year. In Union County, comments indicated that a hard freeze damaged some irrigation equipment and potentially some of the wheat crop, although no official assessment had been made. Additionally, reports noted that some freeze damage was seen in alfalfa fields. With all hay types in short supply and demand high, wheat fields in Curry County were being baled for hay. Statewide, 57 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 34 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 30 percent. Ranchers were planning to market cattle following a prolonged period of feeding supplemental hay and protein. During the past week, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 0.5 inch in a few isolated areas to merely a trace, with a large portion of the State remaining dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 20, moderate drought (D2) 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. Very slight changes were noted in both categories when compared with the previous week. Extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought remained across 26.4 and 53.5 percent, respectively, unchanged from a week ago. Exceptional drought plagued approximately 65,046 square miles of land, while extreme drought was present across roughly 32,064 square miles. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 89 percent short to very short, compared with 63 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 5 percent light. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 3 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 48 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 19 percent adequate, compared with 12 percent very short, 43 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 35 percent short, 26 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 11 percent very short, 23 percent short, and 66 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	15	5	25	22
Chile				
Planted	54	45	64	69
Emerged	26	15	13	32
Corn				
Planted	18	9	26	23
Emerged	2	NA	NA	NA
Cotton				
Planted	15	8	25	29
Onions				
Planted	60	52	72	85
Emerged	51	40	59	71
Winter wheat				
Headed	24	8	41	42
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	85	80	69	80
Receiving supplemental feed	91	93	83	75
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	85	80	70	79
Receiving supplemental feed	90	95	65	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	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	57	52	34	24
Short	32	35	29	43
Adequate	10	12	37	32
Surplus	1	1	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	60	58	36	20
Short	32	35	33	41
Adequate	7	6	31	39
Surplus	1	1	--	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	7	5	2	--
Poor	3	2	2	5
Fair.....	53	60	36	45
Good.....	30	28	54	44
Excellent	7	5	6	6
Pasture and range				
Very poor	27	28	16	7
Poor	30	24	18	23
Fair.....	36	39	43	46
Good.....	7	9	22	22
Excellent	--	--	1	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor	43	50	1	5
Poor	19	23	7	23
Fair.....	15	10	56	35
Good.....	10	5	26	28
Excellent	13	12	10	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	8	10	11	3
Poor	15	17	5	6
Fair.....	34	36	29	44
Good.....	28	23	48	42
Excellent	15	14	7	5
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	18	22	10	8
Poor	7	8	12	10
Fair.....	27	27	30	35
Good.....	38	38	45	45
Excellent	10	5	3	2

NA – not available

(--)- zero