

# 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 SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Above average temperatures and limited rainfall continued as the dominant weather pattern across much of the State, which led to some noticeable declines in soil moisture levels that had recently been boosted by monsoon rains while providing producers ample time for field and ranch work, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With production at this point in the growing season limited to southern locales, hay harvest was slower during the week due to some rain falling across most southwestern counties. Both green and red chile harvest progressed at a normal pace. With progress advancing at a pace similar to last year when growers were slow to plant due to soil moisture concerns, the 2022 winter wheat crop was 65 percent seeded by week's end. Reports indicated that sorghum harvest was about 30 percent complete in Union County. In Curry County, cooler nighttime temperatures were noted, along with much drier conditions. Statewide, 37 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 51 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 34 percent. Ranchers were busy with fall activities, especially shipping calves and yearlings to feed yards or auction barns. During the past week, converted moisture totals ranged from about 2 inches in a few isolated locations of southwestern New Mexico to merely a trace. Much of the State either saw less than 0.1 inch or was dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 21, drought-free conditions existed across an area equal to 10.8 percent of the State, while abnormal dryness decreased to cover 9.8 percent of the State. Moderate drought (D1) and severe drought (D2) both increased to cover 30.6 and 29.8 percent of New Mexico, respectively. Extreme (D3) drought remained across 19.1 percent of the State. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4). Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 73 percent short to very short, compared with 86 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 52 percent. Comments from Union County noted that the subsoil was dry to approximately 3 feet, and fire danger was extreme due to high winds and hot temperatures. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 6 percent light and 3 percent moderate. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent none, 6 percent light, 88 percent moderate, and 5 percent heavy. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 13 percent very short, 32 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 38 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 14 percent very short, 32 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 16 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 45 percent adequate last year.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	45	40	59	70
Chile				
Green harvested.....	88	79	88	86
Red harvested.....	10	5	12	9
Corn				
Dented .....	91	80	76	77
Mature .....	59	40	53	48
Harvested for silage.....	75	61	78	68
Cotton				
Bolls opening .....	22	10	36	47
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	65	45	64	71
Emerged .....	45	25	40	40
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	30	35	80	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	45	45	73	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 .....	6.6	6.6	6.8	5.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	34	33	40	16
Short.....	39	35	46	36
Adequate .....	23	26	14	43
Surplus .....	4	6	--	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	40	38	47	21
Short.....	37	36	39	33
Adequate .....	20	22	14	45
Surplus .....	3	4	--	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.....	3	4	1	3
Poor .....	10	12	6	6
Fair.....	36	30	35	29
Good .....	29	30	47	51
Excellent.....	22	24	11	11
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor .....	4	1	1	3
Fair.....	40	45	32	33
Good .....	33	26	24	37
Excellent.....	23	28	42	26
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	3
Poor .....	19	18	17	13
Fair.....	42	43	43	41
Good .....	35	32	26	35
Excellent.....	4	7	6	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	9	9	24	11
Poor .....	28	24	27	23
Fair.....	50	48	30	37
Good .....	13	18	12	21
Excellent.....	--	1	7	8
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	8	2
Poor .....	9	9	23	12
Fair.....	32	32	23	56
Good .....	59	59	46	30
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	--
Poor .....	7	9	7	2
Fair.....	10	12	37	11
Good .....	83	78	55	61
Excellent.....	--	1	--	26
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	5	4	5	2
Poor .....	7	5	11	6
Fair.....	33	30	46	38
Good .....	37	40	21	41
Excellent.....	18	21	17	13
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	12	7	27	13
Poor .....	7	10	11	9
Fair.....	45	40	22	27
Good .....	36	40	40	45
Excellent.....	--	3	--	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero