

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE**  
 PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004  
 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 March 28, 2022

Contact: Longino Bustillos  
 (800) 530-8810

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Another month has passed, and meaningful winter and early-spring precipitation has continued to evade large portions of New Mexico, allowing drought to worsen and expand, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With the growing season underway, producers have commented that decisions about what to plant and even whether they should plant remained at the forefront of their concerns because soil moisture was depleted, and irrigation water could be extremely limited based on current reservoir levels and forecasted La Nina conditions until mid-to-late summer. In most cases, high winds have limited the benefits of what snow has fallen. Statewide, winter wheat condition was reported at 69 percent poor to very poor, compared with 88 percent poor to very poor last year. Reports from Union County noted that wheat circles showed signs of drought and grazing stress, so ranchers have had to move their cattle herds to alternative grazing sources. Chile growers were busy planting the 2022 crop, with progress ahead of last year's pace. Calving and lambing were steadily progressing, with 90 percent of the cattle herd and 71 percent of the sheep herd receiving supplemental feed. Since March 1, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 3 inches to merely a trace, with well over half of the state accumulating less than 0.25 inch. The heavier moisture totals were confined to a swath of land running north to south down through the center of the state. With the exception of a few isolated areas across the center of New Mexico, monthly moisture was well below average, with several large portions of the state accumulating precipitation that totaled 25 percent of normal or less. Since January 1, moisture for these same locations was at or below 25 percent of normal, leaving producers in some of the state's largest crop-producing counties with tough choices going into planting season. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 22, exceptional drought (D4) has expanded with each week that has passed, with 5.5 percent of the state included in the category. Extreme drought (D3) covered 34.1 percent of New Mexico, severe drought (D2) was categorized across 51.6 percent, and moderate drought (D1) was present on 7.7 percent. Another 1.0 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 11 percent very short, 34 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 38 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 28 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 35 percent adequate, compared with 50 percent very short, 22 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year.

**Note:** The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 4, 2022.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted .....	21	NA	8	NA
Onions				
Planted .....	15	NA	20	NA
Emerged .....	5	NA	10	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	45	15	40	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	90	89	90	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled .....	50	20	40	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	71	80	89	NA

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short .....	44	43	53	NA
Short .....	45	40	31	NA
Adequate .....	11	17	14	NA
Surplus .....	--	--	2	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	48	47	59	NA
Short .....	39	40	34	NA
Adequate .....	13	13	6	NA
Surplus .....	--	--	1	NA

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION**

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	2	NA	--	NA
Poor .....	4	NA	5	NA
Fair.....	7	NA	78	NA
Good .....	87	NA	15	NA
Excellent.....	--	NA	2	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	29	2	64	NA
Poor .....	40	54	24	NA
Fair.....	24	39	4	NA
Good .....	6	5	3	NA
Excellent.....	1	--	5	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	3	4	2	NA
Poor .....	15	15	17	NA
Fair.....	47	40	42	NA
Good .....	27	33	31	NA
Excellent.....	8	8	8	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	2	9	25	NA
Poor .....	16	26	8	NA
Fair.....	31	24	31	NA
Good .....	43	37	36	NA
Excellent.....	8	4	--	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero