

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 3, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With meaningful precipitation limited to extremely isolated pockets of a few counties during the past week, drought continued its stronghold on New Mexico which has forced farmers and ranchers to make challenging decisions regarding how to proceed with their operations in 2022, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Statewide, 80 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in fair or worse condition, with comments from several counties indicating a dire need for heavy spring rainfall. Reports from San Juan County noted that some ranchers in the area had water wells on their land that were going dry. Additionally, range conditions in the county varied drastically depending on how long animals were turned out during the winter. In Union County, pastures were very dry and fire danger was extreme despite some limited rainfall. Reports of a wildfire were noted in Lea County. Farmers were busy preparing to plant or planting row crops, with progress for chile and cotton advancing ahead of the normal pace. Statewide, 37 percent of the chile crop was planted by week's end, roughly 10 days ahead of progress last year, while 3 percent of the cotton crop was planted, about 8 days ahead of last year. Calving and lambing were steadily progressing ahead of both last year and the average pace, with 88 percent of the cattle herd and 71 percent of the sheep herd receiving supplemental feed. Converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – remained well below average for much of the State during the week, with widespread areas across southern New Mexico accumulating moisture that totaled 10 percent or normal or less. Since January 1, precipitation was well below normal for most of the State. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 29, exceptional drought (D4) was present across 5.5 percent of the State, while extreme drought (D3) expanded to cover 38.3 percent of New Mexico, up 4.2 percentage points from last week. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 47.4 percent of New Mexico, and moderate drought (D1) was present on 7.7 percent. Another 1.1 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 35 percent very short, 40 percent short, and 25 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 36 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 36 percent adequate, compared with 45 percent very short, 20 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted	37	21	20	24
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Cotton				
Planted	3	NA	--	1
Onions				
Planted	20	15	32	41
Emerged	10	5	19	22
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	60	45	53	43
Receiving supplemental feed.....	88	90	87	80
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed	72	50	53	37
Receiving supplemental feed.....	71	71	89	77

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.....	6.5	NA	6.7	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	40	44	47	30
Short.....	48	45	33	38
Adequate.....	12	11	19	31
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	45	48	58	28
Short.....	41	39	34	41
Adequate.....	14	13	7	30
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	2	--	1
Poor.....	7	4	4	7
Fair.....	10	7	70	53
Good.....	81	87	24	37
Excellent.....	--	--	2	2
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	13	NA	30	13
Poor.....	23	NA	30	20
Fair.....	44	NA	34	46
Good.....	18	NA	6	20
Excellent.....	2	NA	--	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	36	29	60	15
Poor.....	42	40	20	26
Fair.....	15	24	5	29
Good.....	5	6	5	22
Excellent.....	2	1	10	8
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	3	3	5	3
Poor.....	14	15	15	12
Fair.....	46	47	40	43
Good.....	29	27	25	34
Excellent.....	8	8	15	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	2	2	20	9
Poor.....	7	16	11	13
Fair.....	38	31	29	38
Good.....	43	43	40	39
Excellent.....	10	8	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero