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
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With the exception of a few isolated eastern locations where above average rain totals were recorded, warm temperatures and dry conditions continued to plague New Mexico, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With harvest for grain underway across a limited area, 84 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 57 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 33 percent. Growers were also busy harvesting some winter wheat acreage for dry hay or silage. Fire danger remained extreme in many counties. Growth of the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex slowed during the week, while the Black Fire nearly doubled in size. Respectively, the fires covered approximately 315,000 and 228,000 acres, with 50 and 19 percent containment. A new fire located in the Peloncillo Mountains, named the Foster Fire, was reported on May 29. Corn planting progressed behind the 5-year average pace, with comments indicating that some fields remained unworked. Conversely, growers were quickly planting cotton and peanuts, with progress for both crops ahead of last year's pace. Statewide, the first cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 78 percent complete by week's end, with the second cutting underway in some southern counties. Topsoil moisture was reported as 88 percent very short to short, compared with 75 percent last year and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Additionally, 53 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 61 percent last year and a 5-year average of 47 percent. Overall, supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 85 percent of the cattle herd and 75 percent of the sheep herd being fed. Converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 4.0 inches in an isolated portion of Roosevelt County to merely a trace in several eastern counties. Most of the State was dry. Since January 1, some of the driest counties were in southeastern and southwestern New Mexico, where precipitation has totaled 25 percent of normal or less, affecting large acreages of cotton, dry hay and haylage, sorghum, and wheat, as well as large percentages of the cattle and sheep herds. Statewide, based on accumulated moisture, year-to-date conditions continued to be among the driest ever recorded, and there were currently 33 counties with disaster designations. According to the United States Drought Monitor for May 24, exceptional drought (D4) continued to spread, covering 45.8 percent of the State, an increase of 9.1 percentage points. Extreme drought (D3) was present across 44.2 percent of New Mexico, while severe drought (D2) was categorized across 7.1 percent. Moderate drought (D1) was present across 2.1 percent. Confined to a shrinking portion of Dona Ana and Otero Counties, 0.7 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). There was no freeze damage reported. There was no hail damage reported. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 15 percent light, 12 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 39 percent very short, 36 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 42 percent very short, 17 percent short, and 41 percent adequate, compared with 45 percent very short, 22 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1st cutting harvested	78	63	74	72
2nd cutting harvested	2	NA	8	17
Chile				
Emerged	95	86	73	83
Corn				
Planted	66	60	77	75
Emerged	39	31	48	47
Cotton				
Planted	70	56	58	77
Emerged	36	31	37	47
Onions				
Emerged	95	85	90	NA
Peanuts				
Planted	53	42	36	48
Emerged	25	16	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Headed	86	74	86	NA
Harvested for grain	1	NA	--	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed	85	89	84	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed	75	80	88	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	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	54	55	48	32
Short	34	34	27	35
Adequate	12	11	22	32
Surplus	--	--	3	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	56	59	54	33
Short	37	35	35	38
Adequate	7	6	10	28
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	1	1	4	5
Poor	8	8	15	5
Fair	30	25	32	26
Good	51	56	39	58
Excellent	10	10	10	6
Chile				
Very poor	6	6	2	1
Poor	13	13	8	6
Fair	41	41	20	33
Good	25	25	44	46
Excellent	15	15	26	14
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	5	5	--	--
Fair	20	20	4	11
Good	60	60	32	42
Excellent	15	15	64	47
Pasture and range				
Very poor	18	20	25	15
Poor	35	31	36	32
Fair	38	36	21	34
Good	8	12	8	14
Excellent	1	1	10	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor	62	62	36	12
Poor	22	22	21	21
Fair	4	4	22	31
Good	3	3	1	24
Excellent	9	9	20	12
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	3	4	2
Poor	17	18	17	10
Fair	36	36	34	38
Good	33	32	30	40
Excellent	12	11	15	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	1	1	15	11
Poor	10	12	10	9
Fair	36	32	35	32
Good	46	48	40	46
Excellent	7	7	--	2

NA – not available
(--) – zero