

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 JUNE 12, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite a more widespread moisture pattern, drought-reversing rainfall remained elusive during the week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. While isolated areas totaled above average rainfall, comments from these locations noted that much larger precipitation amounts were needed to alleviate the affects of the long-term drought that has plagued New Mexico for several years. In Dona Ana County, reports noted that acreage not already planted to alfalfa or pecans was planted to cotton due to the higher drought tolerance of the crop. Additionally, the irrigation allotment from Elephant Butte Dam was 5 inches for the season, forcing growers with any remaining water needs to pump from ground wells, if available. Comments from Union County indicated a very limited precipitation pattern during the week, with many fields remaining fallow. Statewide, growers were busy harvesting the onion crop, with 14 percent of the crop picked by week's end, well ahead of last year's progress but slightly behind normal. Statewide, hot temperatures and windy conditions contributed to high fire danger. Several new fires sparked during the week, ranging in both size and containment. The cause listed for many recent fires was lightning which ignited tinder dry vegetation. The Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fire complex was estimated to cover roughly 320,300 acres as of the June 12 update, with containment listed at 70 percent. Growth of the Black Fire jumped during the week, covering over 304,500 acres, with just over 40 percent containment. Statewide, 61 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 50 percent. Overall, supplemental feeding needs remained high, with 86 percent of the cattle herd and 86 percent of the sheep herd being fed. This contributed to diminishing hay and roughage supplies when compared with last week, despite an active hay harvest. Topsoil moisture was reported as 94 percent very short to short, compared with 75 percent last year and a 5-year average of 69 percent. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from approximately 3 inches in a few isolated areas of San Miguel and Sierra Counties to merely a trace across several northeastern and southwestern counties. Most southeastern counties were dry. Since January 1, most of the State has received less than 2.5 inches of precipitation, with 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. Some counties in these areas have moisture totals less than 5 percent of normal. 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 June 7, drought continued to spread and worsen, although the changes noted were slight when compared with last week. Approximately 90 percent of the State was categorized in exceptional (D4) or extreme (D3) drought – 46.8 and 43.3 percent, respectively. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 7.1 percent, and moderate drought (D1) was present across 2.8 percent. The areas in Dona Ana and Otero Counties there were previously categorized as abnormally dry was downgraded to moderate drought. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 12 percent light, 8 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 16 percent very short, 30 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 32 percent very short, 39 percent short, 28 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 45 percent very short, 22 percent short, and 33 percent adequate, compared with 50 percent very short, 20 percent short, 29 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus 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	87	85	94	89
2 nd cutting harvested.....	20	10	24	33
Corn				
Planted	81	71	96	91
Emerged	63	50	68	68
Cotton				
Planted	89	74	83	91
Emerged	50	38	64	70
Onions				
Harvested	14	NA	1	17
Peanuts				
Planted	85	65	75	NA
Emerged	53	37	33	41
Winter wheat				
Harvested for grain	22	2	15	23
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	86	87	81	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	86	85	87	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.....	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	57	54	40	32
Short.....	37	34	35	37
Adequate.....	6	12	22	30
Surplus.....	--	--	3	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	55	56	49	33
Short.....	40	37	40	43
Adequate.....	5	7	10	23
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	1	4
Poor.....	6	6	10	6
Fair.....	40	35	35	26
Good.....	45	50	35	56
Excellent.....	8	8	19	8
Chile				
Very poor.....	6	6	2	1
Poor.....	16	13	8	3
Fair.....	38	41	20	34
Good.....	25	25	44	48
Excellent.....	15	15	26	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	4	NA	1	1
Poor.....	6	NA	4	4
Fair.....	47	NA	37	47
Good.....	10	NA	30	28
Excellent.....	33	NA	28	20
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	3	5	--	2
Fair.....	18	20	16	13
Good.....	69	60	37	44
Excellent.....	10	15	47	41
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	18	13	26	15
Poor.....	43	38	35	35
Fair.....	36	41	23	33
Good.....	3	7	10	14
Excellent.....	--	1	6	3
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor.....	5	6	3	2
Fair.....	26	23	6	11
Good.....	30	28	91	69
Excellent.....	39	43	--	18
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	62	62	35	16
Poor.....	22	22	25	20
Fair.....	4	4	25	32
Good.....	4	4	5	23
Excellent.....	8	8	10	9
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	3	2	7	3
Poor.....	22	19	19	12
Fair.....	37	35	35	37
Good.....	28	30	33	40
Excellent.....	10	14	6	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	15	6
Poor.....	10	10	10	11
Fair.....	46	40	35	36
Good.....	44	45	37	44
Excellent.....	--	5	3	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero