

# 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  
 September 12, 2022

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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Heavier weekly rainfall totals remained isolated, and total accumulations were reduced even further when compared with recent weeks, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With precipitation concentrated over a more condensed area, soil moisture levels dropped slightly during the week. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 51 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 54 percent last week, 33 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Reports from Rio Arriba and Union Counties indicated warm temperatures and spotty showers that resulted in a noticeable regression of pasture grass growth. Statewide, 39 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 41 percent last week, 17 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 21 percent. Producers across the State were busy harvesting alfalfa hay, with production in most northern counties slowing, while growers with fields in the south were ramping up production from their fifth cutting for the year. Green chile continued to be harvested at a quick pace, with 86 percent of the crop out of the fields by week's end. This is roughly 11 days ahead of last year's harvest pace. Orchard producers in Rio Arriba County were preparing to harvest apples and pears, while high-elevation timothy hay was being baled. In Union County, the sorghum crop was turning color, and heading was evident in most millet fields. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from over 2 inches in a few very isolated locations to only a trace or none across large portions of the State. Despite a fairly active monsoon season, year-to-date rainfall remained well below average for much of New Mexico, with precipitation totals across a wide-ranging portion of several southeastern counties at or below 50 percent of normal. Additionally, there were isolated areas in a number of counties where yearly rainfall was at or below 25 percent of normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 6, drought conditions continued to show some week-to-week improvement despite the reduction in widespread monsoonal moisture. For the first time since January 18, the State was free of exceptional drought (D4). Extreme (D3) drought was categorized across 9.2 percent of New Mexico, severe drought (D2) increased to cover 49.2 percent, moderate drought (D1) increased slightly to 29.4 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) accounted for 11.3 percent of the State. Drought-free conditions, at 0.9 percent, maintained their hold in Dona Ana and Otero Counties. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent moderate. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 6 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 99 percent moderate and 1 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 34 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus, compared with 11 percent very short, 29 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 32 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 13 percent very short, 23 percent short, 63 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				
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	75	60	86	88
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	20	9	26	40
Chile				
Green harvested .....	86	77	70	69
Corn				
Doughed .....	77	60	85	77
Dented .....	21	6	63	55
Harvested for silage .....	8	6	48	47
Cotton				
Setting bolls .....	87	79	90	NA
Bolls opening .....	6	4	7	16
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	19	14	28	38
Emerged .....	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed .....	50	55	27	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed .....	15	20	55	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 .....	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	10	8	30	23
Short .....	39	38	37	41
Adequate .....	49	52	28	33
Surplus .....	2	2	5	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	18	17	38	29
Short .....	49	47	35	40
Adequate .....	32	35	23	29
Surplus .....	1	1	4	2

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	3	4
Poor .....	6	3	9	10
Fair.....	29	24	25	23
Good .....	50	59	34	49
Excellent.....	14	14	29	14
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	3	4	1	1
Poor .....	4	5	1	3
Fair.....	25	30	40	34
Good .....	23	20	26	38
Excellent.....	45	41	32	24
<b>Cotton</b>				
Very poor.....	4	5	--	2
Poor .....	27	29	16	14
Fair.....	34	36	39	39
Good .....	25	24	29	34
Excellent.....	10	6	16	11
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	3	3	12	12
Poor .....	26	24	21	29
Fair.....	32	32	50	38
Good .....	29	30	14	17
Excellent.....	10	11	3	4
<b>Peanuts</b>				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	1
Poor .....	7	7	9	12
Fair.....	75	75	32	50
Good .....	13	13	59	37
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
<b>Pecans</b>				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	--
Poor .....	5	4	5	2
Fair.....	15	17	10	9
Good .....	38	36	85	72
Excellent.....	41	42	--	17
<b>Cattle and calves</b>				
Very poor.....	2	1	4	3
Poor .....	5	5	6	8
Fair.....	30	25	23	36
Good .....	40	38	44	40
Excellent.....	23	31	23	13
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>				
Very poor.....	--	--	12	6
Poor .....	1	2	7	8
Fair.....	30	25	33	30
Good .....	60	55	43	51
Excellent.....	9	18	5	5

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero