

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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Contact: Rodger Ott
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite rainfall that covered a wider portion of the State during the week, producers stayed active in their fields harvesting chile and hay, and seeding winter wheat acreage, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Total moisture accumulations were on the lower side for many areas which allowed nearly a full week of days suitable for fieldwork. With lesser rainfall amounts, soil moisture levels and pasture conditions declined when compared with recent weeks. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 45 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 51 percent last week, 32 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 40 percent, while 30 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 39 percent last week, 19 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 24 percent. Reports from Union County indicated both wide-ranging rainfall totals and temperature swings during the week, as growers were busy harvesting hay grazer. Overall, this year's green chile harvest was nearing completion well ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. A limited amount of red chile was harvested by week's end. Converted moisture totals during the past week ranged from over 2 inches to only a trace or none across large portions of eastern New Mexico. Widespread portions of many southwestern counties saw accumulations between 1 and 2 inches during the week. Despite an active monsoon that has delivered more than 10 inches of rainfall to large a large percentage of the State, year-to-date precipitation totals remained well below average for much of New Mexico, with moisture totals across several southeastern counties at or below 50 percent of normal. Additionally, there were isolated areas in several counties where yearly rainfall was at or below 25 percent of normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for September 13, drought conditions continued to show some week-to-week improvement. The State remained free of exceptional drought (D4), while the area affected by extreme drought (D3) was reduced to 7.1 percent. Severe drought (D2) was categorized across 39.7 percent of New Mexico, a decrease of 9.5 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought (D1) was increased to 37.4 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) accounted for 14.9 percent. 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 4 percent light, 4 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Pecan nut set was reported as 99 percent moderate and 1 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 37 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 12 percent very short, 32 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 19 percent very short, 34 percent short, 46 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 17 percent very short, 25 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 2 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 th cutting harvested | 88 | 75 | 95 | NA |
| 5 th cutting harvested | 34 | 20 | 38 | 52 |
| Chile | | | | |
| Green harvested | 94 | 86 | 78 | 77 |
| Red harvested | 9 | -- | NA | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Doughed | 87 | 77 | 94 | 86 |
| Dented | 36 | 21 | 78 | 69 |
| Mature | 1 | NA | 39 | 38 |
| Harvested for silage | 13 | 8 | 60 | 60 |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Setting bolls | 93 | 87 | 97 | NA |
| Bolls opening | 18 | 6 | 10 | 26 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted | 24 | 19 | 43 | 53 |
| Emerged | 9 | 1 | 23 | 26 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 48 | 50 | 35 | NA |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 25 | 15 | 45 | 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 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 12 | 10 | 33 | 23 |
| Short | 43 | 39 | 35 | 37 |
| Adequate | 43 | 49 | 26 | 37 |
| Surplus | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 23 | 18 | 38 | 29 |
| Short | 53 | 49 | 36 | 36 |
| Adequate | 23 | 32 | 22 | 33 |
| 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) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Poor | 9 | 6 | 12 | 9 |
| Fair..... | 25 | 29 | 30 | 24 |
| Good | 45 | 50 | 30 | 50 |
| Excellent..... | 19 | 14 | 24 | 13 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 4 | 3 | -- | 1 |
| Poor | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Fair..... | 18 | 25 | 45 | 37 |
| Good | 27 | 23 | 26 | 33 |
| Excellent..... | 45 | 45 | 28 | 26 |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 5 | 4 | -- | 2 |
| Poor | 31 | 27 | 18 | 13 |
| Fair..... | 38 | 34 | 43 | 43 |
| Good | 22 | 25 | 32 | 35 |
| Excellent..... | 4 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 4 | 3 | 9 | 11 |
| Poor | 30 | 26 | 24 | 27 |
| Fair..... | 36 | 32 | 48 | 38 |
| Good | 20 | 29 | 18 | 19 |
| Excellent..... | 10 | 10 | 1 | 5 |
| Peanuts | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 5 | 5 | -- | 1 |
| Poor | 7 | 7 | 9 | 12 |
| Fair..... | 75 | 75 | 32 | 50 |
| Good | 13 | 13 | 59 | 37 |
| Excellent..... | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Pecans | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Poor | 5 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| Fair..... | 10 | 15 | 12 | 10 |
| Good | 44 | 38 | 78 | 71 |
| Excellent..... | 40 | 41 | 1 | 16 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Poor | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 36 | 30 | 30 | 37 |
| Good | 36 | 40 | 40 | 39 |
| Excellent..... | 20 | 23 | 21 | 13 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Very poor..... | -- | -- | 7 | 7 |
| Poor | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 |
| Fair..... | 35 | 30 | 40 | 32 |
| Good | 57 | 60 | 40 | 48 |
| Excellent..... | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero