

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE
 1050 Stewart St, Room E1200 Las Cruces, NM 88003
 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 January 2, 2024

Contact: Margie Whitcotton
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Snow helped with dry conditions in parts of New Mexico, but dry, warm weather prevailed in others during the month of December, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Row crop harvest wrapped up in most areas. Cotton harvest at the end of the month was ahead of last year, while pecan harvest was behind last year's progress. Comments from several counties in the northeastern part of the State noted wet snow fell mid-month that helped with soil moistures. Southcentral counties noted conditions remained dry and windier than normal. Winter wheat condition declined, with 23 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 28 percent at the end of November and 20 percent for December 2022.

Converted moisture totals during the past month ranged from no precipitation to approximately 3 inches. Significant precipitation was mostly confined to the central counties, but most of the state only received 1 inch or less. Most counties saw slightly below average precipitation during December. Isolated areas continued to register yearly rainfall accumulation at or below 50 percent of normal. Conversely, yearly precipitation for areas in northwestern and central part of the state totaled 150 percent of normal or more. Average temperatures during December were generally normal except for the southeastern corner of the state that were below normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for December 26, exceptional drought (D4) continued in parts of southern New Mexico including most of Eddy County and parts of Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 35 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 41 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 12 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 5 percent. Drought-free conditions covered less than 1 percent of the State. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 43 percent short, and 19 percent adequate, compared with 32 percent very short, 46 percent short, 21 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on November 26. Stock water supplies were reported as 36 percent very short, 26 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 27 percent very short, 41 percent short, 31 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on November 26.

Monthly reports will be released for January on January 29, 2024; for February on February 26, 2024; and for March on March 25, 2024.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chiles				
Red harvested	100	83	NA	NA
Corn				
Harvested for grain	100	70	98	NA
Cotton				
Harvested	98	63	85	NA
Onions				
Planted	100	85	99	NA
Emerged	100	60	95	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested	100	90	NA	NA
Pecans				
Harvested	50	43	84	NA

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	50	35	41	NA
Short	32	43	35	NA
Adequate	15	21	23	NA
Surplus	3	1	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	49	36	42	NA
Short	40	43	35	NA
Adequate	10	20	23	NA
Surplus	1	1	--	NA

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	17	10	NA	NA
Poor	32	41	NA	NA
Fair.....	26	39	NA	NA
Good	15	5	NA	NA
Excellent.....	10	5	NA	NA
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor	1	1	1	NA
Fair.....	3	5	36	NA
Good	8	10	24	NA
Excellent.....	88	84	38	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor	31	22	22	NA
Fair.....	46	50	58	NA
Good	14	15	19	NA
Excellent.....	9	13	1	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	--	2	1	NA
Poor	11	14	5	NA
Fair.....	39	34	49	NA
Good	35	41	34	NA
Excellent.....	15	9	11	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	2	8	11	NA
Poor	4	8	31	NA
Fair.....	43	34	38	NA
Good	50	49	19	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	1	NA

NA – not available

(--)- zero