

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
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With the onset of Spring, the month of March brought above average precipitation in New Mexico leading to more adequate moisture levels in topsoil and subsoil as compared to March 2022, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Despite a State-level increase of rain and snow, reporters in eastern counties continued to comment on the need for moisture. Union County in particular, was still being challenged with high winds, low humidity, and lack of beneficial precipitation. Cows calved and ewes lambled were at 40 percent. This was the first month of 2023 that asked respondents to report on the condition of alfalfa hay and 74 percent was reported in fair to good condition. Chile planting season was off to a slower start than last year, with only 3 percent of acres planted so far, compared to 21 percent at this time last year. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 21, exceptional drought (D4) persisted in the northeast corner of the State, affecting land in Union County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 3.6 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 11.7 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 17.4 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 32.4 percent. Over thirty-four percent of the state reached drought-free conditions, primarily in the western half of the State. This was an increase in drought-free conditions of 12.8 percent from the previous month. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 44 percent short, 22 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 21 percent very short, 41 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus on February 27. Stock water supplies were reported as 36 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 30 percent adequate, compared with 32 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 39 percent adequate on February 27.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 3, 2023.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted	3	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	40	6	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	78	79	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	40	3	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	72	NA	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	23	17	NA	NA
Short	40	33	NA	NA
Adequate	37	49	NA	NA
Surplus	--	1	NA	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	25	21	NA	NA
Short	56	42	NA	NA
Adequate	19	36	NA	NA
Surplus	--	1	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	6	NA	NA	NA
Poor	13	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	52	NA	NA	NA
Good	22	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	7	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	21	1	NA	NA
Poor	23	24	NA	NA
Fair.....	46	58	NA	NA
Good	4	14	NA	NA
Excellent.....	6	3	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	1	NA	NA
Poor	7	7	NA	NA
Fair.....	47	29	NA	NA
Good	33	45	NA	NA
Excellent.....	12	18	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	7	7	NA	NA
Poor	16	23	NA	NA
Fair.....	50	34	NA	NA
Good	24	28	NA	NA
Excellent.....	3	8	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero