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 APRIL 2, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Red flags were up in New Mexico last week. The high winds and low humidity triggered wind warnings across the State and red flag warnings for extreme fire danger in the southwest counties and the northern central part of the State. In Union County there was a report of soil accumulating across roads due to winds gusting up to 70 mph. Despite the wind, weather conditions were relatively normal for New Mexico last week, and suitable for 6.2 days of fieldwork according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Though still a small portion of the State, 0.21 percent, the percent of New Mexico experiencing exceptional drought (D4) increased last week for the first time since October 2022, according to the United States Drought Monitor for the week of March 28. Extreme drought conditions (D3) also increased marginally from the previous week to 3.99 percent. Lower-level drought conditions (D2, D1, and D0) all improved slightly this week. Severe drought (D2) covered 11.48 percent of New Mexico, 17.24 percent experienced moderate drought (D1), and 31.03 percent of the State was considered abnormally dry (D0). More of the State was drought-free last week than the week prior: 36.06 percent, compared to 34.72 percent. The worst of the drought conditions continued to be along New Mexico's western border. Cows calved reached 65 percent and ewes lambed reached 70 percent. Seventy and 71 percent of cattle and sheep respectively received supplemental feed. Thirty-four percent of alfalfa hay was reported in good to excellent condition, and another 49 percent in fair condition. In northwest New Mexico, it was noted that winter wheat growth was slow, and across the State 43 percent reported poor to very poor conditions for the crop. After a slow start, 30 percent of Chile acres were reported planted, a 27 percent increase from the previous report. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 47 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 32 percent very short, 44 percent short, 22 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus on March 27. Stock water supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 30 percent adequate, compared with 36 percent very short, 34 percent short, and 30 percent adequate on March 27.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Chile				
Planted.......................................	30	3	35	22
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved...............................	65	40	58	46
Receiving supplemental feed.....................	70	78	88	83
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.............................	55	40	69	45
Receiving supplemental feed.....................	71	72	71	77

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.2	NA	6.5	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short..................................	25	23	40	36
Short..	43	40	48	38
Adequate..................................	31	37	12	25
Surplus	1	--	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short..................................	30	25	45	35
Short..	54	56	41	41
Adequate..................................	15	19	14	24
Surplus	1	--	--	--

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor...	6	6	2	1
Poor..	11	13	7	7
Fair	49	52	10	44
Good..	25	22	81	46
Excellent...	9	7	--	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor...	21	21	36	22
Poor..	22	23	42	29
Fair	44	46	15	24
Good..	4	4	5	18
Excellent...	9	6	2	7
Cattle and calves				
Very poor...	1	1	3	4
Poor..	4	7	14	14
Fair	38	47	46	42
Good..	37	33	29	31
Excellent...	20	12	8	9
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor...	5	7	2	9
Poor..	15	16	7	11
Fair	45	50	38	38
Good..	30	24	43	39
Excellent...	5	3	10	3
Pasture and Range				
Very poor...	4	NA	13	14
Poor..	8	NA	23	21
Fair	60	NA	44	45
Good..	13	NA	18	19
Excellent...	15	NA	2	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero