

# 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 23, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** It was another dry week in New Mexico, but planting continued during the 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork and remains on-pace with previous years, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The percent of planted corn increased by 11 percentage points from the previous week to a total of 30 percent, and cotton planted increased from 15 percent to 23 percent. Across the State, 81 percent of chile acres were planted, and 25 percent had emerged. Winter wheat was at 15 percent headed, but in mostly poor or very poor condition: 39 percent and 28 percent respectively. Onions were reported to be in 61 percent excellent and 39 percent good condition. A reporter in Doña Ana shared that the iceberg head lettuce was in excellent condition as well. New Mexico continued to experience higher than average daily temperatures last week, compared to the historical average. According to the National Integrated Drought Information System, the eastern half of the State experienced temperatures 5-8 degrees above the average. The National Weather Service reported no notable precipitation in New Mexico last week. The northeast corner of the State has suffered from weeks of extremely dry conditions and dangerously high winds. One reporter noted that the blowing has finally slowed and some green is beginning to show in the fields, but range conditions are deteriorating and fire danger remains high in the region. Drought conditions remained nearly unchanged last week according to the U.S. Drought Monitor: 0.2 percent categorized as exceptional drought conditions (D4), 4.0 percent as extreme (D3), 12.0 percent as severe (D2), 16.0 percent as moderate (D1), 21.2 percent as abnormal (D0) and 46.6 percent of the State categorized as drought-free. Although the majority of pasture and range land in New Mexico was reported to be in fair or worse condition this week (52 percent fair, 11 percent poor, and 5 percent very poor), cattle in New Mexico were reported to be in better condition than both the previous year and five-year averages. The number of cattle that received supplemental feed increased slightly from the previous week but was lower than historical averages. Seventy-two percent of sheep received supplemental feed last week, down from 80 percent the week before. Sheep were reported to be in mostly fair or good condition, 62 percent and 24 percent, respectively, and sheep in excellent condition increased from 8 percent the previous week to 14 percent. Seventy-four percent of cattle have calved, and 70 percent of ewes have lambed. Freeze and wind damage were minimal last week, and no hail damage was reported. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 39 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 34 percent very short, 38 percent short, and 28 percent adequate.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	8	5	8	14
Chile				
Planted.....	81	72	81	63
Emerged.....	25	19	39	27
Corn				
Planted.....	30	19	20	20
Cotton				
Planted.....	23	15	24	19
Winter wheat				
Headed.....	15	1	5	23
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved.....	74	70	75	78
Receiving supplemental feed.....	73	69	87	83
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	70	59	89	78
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	80	72	75

NA – not available  
 (-) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork .....	6.8	7.0	6.4	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	23	25	43	40
Short .....	41	40	43	39
Adequate .....	35	34	14	21
Surplus .....	1	1	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	32	29	44	37
Short .....	50	53	41	42
Adequate .....	17	17	15	21
Surplus .....	1	1	--	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor .....	20	15	2	2
Poor .....	14	13	4	6
Fair .....	40	49	15	39
Good .....	18	16	77	48
Excellent .....	8	7	2	5
Onions				
Very poor .....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor .....	--	--	NA	NA
Fair .....	--	--	NA	NA
Good .....	39	30	NA	NA
Excellent .....	61	70	NA	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor .....	5	6	12	14
Poor .....	11	14	27	27
Fair .....	52	55	42	41
Good .....	20	15	18	17
Excellent .....	12	10	1	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	28	25	40	20
Poor .....	39	36	42	30
Fair .....	18	27	6	25
Good .....	3	5	5	15
Excellent .....	12	7	7	10
Cattle and calves				
Very poor .....	--	1	2	5
Poor .....	4	6	13	10
Fair .....	34	38	38	41
Good .....	36	31	34	35
Excellent .....	26	24	13	9
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor .....	--	3	--	8
Poor .....	--	7	5	8
Fair .....	62	59	26	35
Good .....	24	23	53	42
Excellent .....	14	8	16	7

NA – not available

(--) – zero