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
WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: It was a cold, wet week in New Mexico, with significant rainfall across the State and maximum daily temperatures 6 or more degrees below average. According to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA, crops and pastures in Union County showed immediate improvement because of the rain. One reporter from the area noted green growth developing in the pastures. The National Integrated Drought Information System predicts more rain next week, primarily in the northern and eastern parts of the State. After a week of rain, the United States Drought Monitor categorized 48.4 percent of New Mexico as drought-free; an increase from 46.6 percent of the State previously. The rest of the State was categorized as 19.5 percent abnormally dry (D0), 13 percent moderate drought (D1), 14.2 percent severe drought (D2), 4.7 percent extreme drought (D3), and 0.2 percent exceptional drought (D4). Despite wetter conditions, farmers and ranchers managed 6.4 days of fieldwork last week. The lettuce harvest was completed in Doña Ana County and only 8 percent of chile acres across the State remained unplanted. It continued to be a good year for onions in New Mexico; conditions were again reported as 60 percent excellent and 40 percent good. Winter wheat conditions improved significantly from the previous week. Sixteen percent of the crop was in excellent condition, a 6 percent increase from the previous week and well above the 5-year average. Pasture and rangeland in New Mexico undoubtedly benefited from the rain, but there was little change in reported conditions from the previous week. Seventy-two percent of cattle and 41 percent of sheep received supplemental feed last week, compared to 74 percent and 61 percent last year. Eighty-seven percent of cattle have calved, and 91 percent of ewes have lambed. Freeze, wind, and hail damage were minimal last week. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 29 percent short, 32 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 25 percent short, 36 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
1st cutting harvested...................................	40	25	61	60
Chile				
Planted..	92	89	NA	NA
Emerged..	44	40	85	74
Corn				
Planted..	73	62	58	64
Emerged..	20	15	29	33
Cotton				
Planted..	51	45	55	60
Emerged..	14	8	30	35
Peanuts				
Planted..	26	18	40	26
Winter Wheat				
Headed..	63	57	71	NA
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved...	87	84	95	97
Receiving supplemental feed.....................	72	74	89	78
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed..	91	86	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....................	41	61	80	71

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 ………………………	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	26	32	55	43
Short..	41	40	34	33
Adequate	31	28	11	22
Surplus	2	--	--	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	30	34	59	42
Short..	53	48	35	38
Adequate	16	17	6	19
Surplus	1	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	8	13	1	6
Poor	9	7	8	5
Fair	32	34	25	25
Good	23	27	56	55
Excellent..	28	19	10	9
Onions				
Very poor	--	--	--	--
Poor	--	--	5	1
Fair	--	--	20	10
Good	40	40	60	42
Excellent..	60	60	15	47
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	13	11	20	14
Poor	33	27	31	36
Fair	29	37	36	35
Good	20	20	12	13
Excellent..	5	5	1	2
Winter wheat				
Very poor	20	29	62	22
Poor	33	42	22	25
Fair	23	17	4	29
Good	8	2	3	14
Excellent..	16	10	9	10
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	1	1	3	3
Poor	7	7	18	12
Fair	38	40	36	38
Good	30	32	32	37
Excellent..	24	20	11	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	4	--	1	8
Poor	7	2	12	9
Fair	38	47	32	39
Good	44	45	48	41
Excellent..	7	6	7	3

NA – not available
(--) – zero