

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



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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The 2023 green chile harvest officially started in New Mexico, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Chiles were reported to be in mostly good to excellent condition, and 4 percent of green chiles were harvested last week. Corn and pecans were also in good to excellent condition, despite being behind historical averages for silking and pegging, respectively. Cotton squaring increased to 24 percent complete, but like corn and pecans, cotton progress was significantly behind previous years. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Union County reported that the last of the wheat had been harvested for grain, and across the State the harvest sat at 77 percent complete. Pasture and range conditions varied widely, but in general were starting to reflect the high temperatures and lack of rain, with increases in the fair and poor categories, and decreases in the good and excellent categories. Nearly all of New Mexico received some of precipitation last week, according to NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, but amounts were minimal and varied, ranging from .01 inches to 2 inches. The heavier rainfall was in the northeastern part of the State, though reports from Mora County commented that it was still very dry. The northwest and southeast saw very little rainfall. Average temperatures were varied, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, and ranged from 1-9 degrees above normal for most of the State. The hotter temperatures and bigger anomalies were in southwest New Mexico. After another week without any meaningful monsoon rains, drought conditions in New Mexico started to worsen. The previous week, 58.7 percent of the State was drought-free, but according to the United States Drought Monitor for last week, that number had dropped to 37.1 percent. Drought conditions in New Mexico had been steadily improving over the past year, and, except for a few hundredths of a percent, this was the first week since July 2022 that the drought-free area has decreased instead of increased. As a result, the abnormally dry category (D0), increased to 44.6 percent. For the remainder of the State, conditions were unchanged: 6.4 percent was in severe drought (D2) and 11.8 percent in moderate drought (D1). Wind damage to crops was reported as 5 percent light. There was no reported hail damage. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 33 percent very short, 30 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 30 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	77	67	89	84
3 rd cutting harvested.....	16	8	21	39
Chiles				
Green harvested.....	4	NA	--	NA
Corn				
Silked.....	5	2	27	26
Cotton				
Squaring.....	24	15	53	60
Onions				
Harvested.....	76	66	80	--
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	29	18	80	56
Winter Wheat				
Harvested for grain.....	77	62	89	--

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.....	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	23	32	35	28
Short.....	39	30	46	42
Adequate.....	37	38	19	27
Surplus.....	1	--	--	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	24	33	39	32
Short.....	41	34	43	44
Adequate.....	35	33	18	23
Surplus.....	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	--	3	6
Poor	6	5	7	5
Fair	18	9	29	29
Good	51	60	52	48
Excellent.....	25	26	9	12
Chile Peppers				
Very poor	--	--	7	2
Poor	25	18	13	9
Fair	17	16	25	25
Good	27	26	52	51
Excellent.....	31	40	3	13
Corn				
Very poor	--	--	7	2
Poor	9	11	20	7
Fair	21	12	31	43
Good	37	42	14	27
Excellent.....	33	35	28	21
Cotton				
Very poor	--	--	6	2
Poor	16	13	20	18
Fair	41	36	50	48
Good	29	28	24	26
Excellent.....	14	23	--	6
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	7	14	9	15
Poor	19	10	41	35
Fair	36	27	41	35
Good	18	24	7	12
Excellent.....	20	25	2	4
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	25	25	7	10
Fair	50	50	75	58
Good	25	25	13	30
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor	1	1	2	--
Poor	1	1	5	2
Fair	2	2	22	16
Good	25	16	38	60
Excellent.....	71	80	33	22
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	1	1	2
Poor	11	8	18	14
Fair	36	27	38	41
Good	31	40	27	34
Excellent.....	20	24	16	9
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	8	4	--	7
Poor	9	4	10	9
Fair	24	16	36	34
Good	56	65	51	46
Excellent.....	3	11	3	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero