

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 JULY 30, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With July coming to an end, New Mexico agriculture started to show signs of stress, as another week passed with no monsoon rains. Crop and livestock conditions worsened last week, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork, during which time green chiles, onions, and winter wheat were harvested. Wheat harvested for grain increased from 77 percent to 93 percent and looks to be on track to be completed in the coming week. Green chiles jumped from 4 percent harvested to 25 percent. Corn, cotton, and peanuts continued to develop slowly, and remained significantly behind previous year's progress. Most of New Mexico received some precipitation last week, according to NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, but amounts were minimal and varied, ranging from .01 inches to 1.5 inches. Cibola, Catron and Socorro Counties were the wettest, while the southeast corner of the State was dry all week. Reports from the field say that the rain had little benefit and areas of the State are starting to show signs of stress. Grasses in western Union County have gone dormant and nearly all crops are in worse condition than the previous week. Cotton and alfalfa have deteriorated the most. Cotton swung from 16 percent poor and 14 percent excellent, to 23 percent poor and 5 percent excellent. Alfalfa was at 6 percent poor and 25 percent excellent the previous week and dropped to 15 percent poor and 16 percent excellent. Peanuts continue to fare well. Across the State, daily temperatures rose above according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, ranging from 3-8 degrees hotter than historical averages. The hottest temperatures and bigger anomalies were in southwest New Mexico. High temperatures and high winds worsened the drought conditions across the State. At the beginning of July, over 55 percent of New Mexico was drought-free. Without any meaningful rainfall, that area has been decreasing each week and stood at just 13.6 percent last week according to the United States Drought Monitor. The abnormally dry category (D0) was up to 52.3 percent, moderate drought (D1) rose 14 percent to 25.8 percent, and severe drought (D2) increased to 8.2 percent. Despite worsening conditions, no part of the State was in extreme or exceptional drought last week. Pasture and range conditions reflected the high temperatures and lack of rain, with increases in the very poor and poor categories, and decreases in the good and excellent categories. Cattle and sheep were again in mostly fair to good condition. Wind damage to crops was reported as 14 percent light, up from 5 percent the week before. There was no reported hail damage. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 35 percent very short, 39 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 30 percent adequate.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
2 nd cutting harvested.....	80	77	93	--
3 rd cutting harvested.....	29	16	33	51
Chiles				
Green harvested.....	25	4	9	9
Corn				
Silked.....	23	5	51	44
Cotton				
Squaring.....	38	24	63	73
Onions				
Harvested.....	80	76	84	NA
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	49	29	90	68
Winter Wheat				
Harvested for grain.....	93	77	95	NA

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	6.6	5.8	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	27	23	17	27
Short.....	45	39	44	42
Adequate.....	28	37	37	30
Surplus.....	--	1	2	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	26	24	26	32
Short.....	48	41	53	45
Adequate.....	26	35	21	22
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	--	--	--	4
Poor	15	6	6	4
Fair.....	27	18	38	27
Good.....	42	51	44	50
Excellent	16	25	12	15
Chile Peppers				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	34	25	11	8
Fair.....	24	17	24	26
Good.....	20	27	44	48
Excellent	22	31	21	17
Corn				
Very poor	--	--	1	1
Poor	18	9	13	5
Fair.....	30	21	45	43
Good.....	28	37	7	28
Excellent	24	33	34	23
Cotton				
Very poor	--	--	--	1
Poor	23	16	19	18
Fair.....	48	41	38	43
Good.....	24	29	28	28
Excellent	5	14	15	10
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	13	7	4	16
Poor	21	19	35	30
Fair.....	45	36	42	37
Good.....	10	18	15	13
Excellent	11	20	4	4
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	5	3
Poor	25	25	7	11
Fair.....	50	50	75	55
Good.....	25	25	13	31
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor	5	1	--	--
Poor	6	1	5	1
Fair.....	11	2	22	13
Good.....	16	25	33	62
Excellent	62	71	40	24
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	2	1	3
Poor	13	11	13	12
Fair.....	45	36	32	40
Good.....	29	31	41	37
Excellent	11	20	13	8
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	6	8	--	11
Poor	12	9	1	9
Fair.....	33	24	34	33
Good.....	47	56	59	43
Excellent	2	3	6	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero