

# 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 AUGUST 6, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** From Union County in the northeast to Hidalgo County in the southwest, reports across the State all had the same message: it was a hot, dry week in New Mexico, and rain is needed, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reports indicated there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork last week, during which time cotton plants started to set bolls and wheat harvested for grain was nearly completed. Green chiles increased from 25 percent harvested to 33 percent, and despite harsh weather conditions, the crop remains in mostly good to excellent condition. Forty-three percent of growers were on to the third cutting of alfalfa hay, and reported the crop condition as 6 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Some corn fields in Union County were observed as failed or abandoned, but in other parts of the State, 31 percent of the crop had reached the silking stage. Corn and peanuts continued to develop slowly and remained 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, just 0.01 inches for most counties, and up to 0.5 inches, in parts of the southern half of the State. Reports from the field say that the rain had little benefit and areas of the State are starting to show signs of stress. In Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties, drought conditions have caused a severe lack of adequate feed for livestock. Daily temperatures continued to surpass historical averages across the State, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, ranging from 3-8 degrees hotter than normal. The hottest temperatures and bigger anomalies were in southwest New Mexico and up through the center of the State. Unrelenting high temperatures 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 over the past month and stood at just 5.7 percent last week according to the United States Drought Monitor. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 47.4 percent, moderate drought (D1) rose another 8 percent to 34 percent, and severe drought (D2) increased to 13 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 for the second consecutive week. Cattle and sheep were again in mostly fair to good condition. Wind damage to crops was reported as 5 percent light, a 9 percent decrease from the week before. There was no reported hail damage. Pecan nut set was reported as 5 percent light and 95 percent moderate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 48 percent short, 18 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 40 percent very short, 36 percent short, 22 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 <sup>nd</sup> cutting harvested.....	90	80	96	--
3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested.....	43	29	39	60
Chiles				
Green harvested.....	33	25	19	18
Corn				
Silked.....	31	23	64	59
Cotton				
Squaring.....	54	38	69	80
Setting Bolls.....	13	NA	14	34
Onions				
Harvested.....	86	80	87	NA
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	58	49	92	79
Winter Wheat				
Harvested for grain.....	97	93	NA	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	6.8	6.3	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	27	16	27
Short.....	40	45	47	42
Adequate.....	25	28	35	29
Surplus.....	--	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	32	26	25	32
Short.....	45	48	55	47
Adequate.....	23	26	20	21
Surplus.....	--	--	--	--

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	4
Poor .....	6	15	2	3
Fair .....	28	27	35	25
Good .....	43	42	49	52
Excellent.....	23	16	13	16
<b>Chile Peppers</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	4	2
Poor .....	25	34	14	8
Fair .....	15	24	26	27
Good .....	29	20	37	47
Excellent.....	31	22	19	16
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	2	1
Poor .....	11	18	14	6
Fair .....	21	30	49	41
Good .....	35	28	4	30
Excellent.....	33	24	31	22
<b>Cotton</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	3	2
Poor .....	18	23	27	19
Fair .....	46	48	35	43
Good .....	22	24	25	28
Excellent.....	14	5	10	8
<b>Pasture and Range</b>				
Very poor .....	21	13	5	13
Poor .....	23	21	36	31
Fair .....	40	45	40	38
Good .....	6	10	13	13
Excellent.....	10	11	6	5
<b>Peanuts</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	5	2
Poor .....	25	25	7	13
Fair .....	50	50	75	53
Good .....	25	25	13	32
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
<b>Pecans</b>				
Very poor .....	--	5	--	--
Poor .....	7	6	5	2
Fair .....	9	11	22	13
Good .....	13	16	33	61
Excellent.....	71	62	40	24
<b>Cattle and calves</b>				
Very poor .....	2	2	1	4
Poor .....	8	13	17	11
Fair .....	40	45	34	40
Good .....	35	29	40	38
Excellent.....	15	11	8	7
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>				
Very poor .....	--	6	--	10
Poor .....	5	12	1	8
Fair .....	36	33	30	32
Good .....	56	47	63	46
Excellent.....	3	2	6	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero