

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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Contact: Margie Whitcotton
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 13, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Corn was silking, cotton was squaring, and peanuts were pegging, although progress was generally behind historical averages, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Crops in New Mexico were developing well and in mostly good condition last week. Reports indicated there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork over the week that producers used to cut hay and harvest onions and chiles. The green chile harvest progressed to 43 percent complete, 13 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. The crop is in mostly good to excellent condition. Some growers had begun the fourth cutting of alfalfa hay, but most were still finishing the third cutting, which stood at 60 percent complete across the State. Cotton was observed in varying condition: 13 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. While 73 percent of the cotton crop was squaring, 40 percent had already reached the boll setting stage. The first of the corn crop reached the dough stage. Much of the State welcomed monsoonal rainfall last week, with the biggest accumulation in Catron County where the Pie Town region saw over 5 inches of rain, and the surrounding area received 2-3 inches, according to NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. Additionally, neighboring counties, McKinley, Cibola and Socorro, recorded between 0.5 inches and 2 inches of rain during the week. On the other side of the State in Roosevelt County, reporters noted that despite some spotty showers, the area was still in need of soaking rains. Union County reported a severe rainstorm on Saturday afternoon, with winds gusting up to 70 mph, but minimal rainfall. Parts of Mora and San Miguel Counties received up to 1.5 inches of rain, enough to cause heavy flooding in the burn scars from the 2022 Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire, according to one reporter in the area. After several hot weeks, New Mexico felt a little relief as temperatures returned to normal, or near-normal ranges for this time of year. The High Plains Regional Climate Center reported a 7-day average in the 70s-80s for northwestern New Mexico, and mostly 90s with a few hot pockets over 100 degrees in the southeast. With just slightly cooler temperatures and a bit of rain, pasture and range conditions across the State improved. Seventeen percent was in very poor condition, 26 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Cattle condition also improved: the excellent category was up 9 percent from the previous week. Sheep on the other hand, were faring slightly worse than the previous week, with 9 percent in the very poor category. The week's rain was not enough to stop worsening drought conditions. The area of New Mexico that remained drought-free was down to 4.7 percent last week according to the United States Drought Monitor. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 37.1 percent, moderate drought (D1) rose another 8.5 percent to 41.6 percent, and severe drought (D2) increased to 14.4 percent. 2.2 percent of New Mexico was in extreme drought (D3), the first week since May 2023 that the State has reached that category. Despite worsening conditions, no part of the State was in exceptional drought last week. Wind damage to crops was reported as 1 percent light. There was no reported hail damage. Pecan nut set was reported as 1 percent light and 99 percent moderate; a slight improvement from the previous week. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 28 percent very short, 39 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 36 percent short, 31 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.....	95	90	NA	NA
3 rd cutting harvested	60	43	56	71
4 th cutting harvested	2	NA	15	36
Chiles				
Green harvested	43	33	34	30
Corn				
Silked	52	31	77	73
Doughed	3	NA	11	18
Cotton				
Squaring.....	73	54	81	88
Setting Bolls.....	40	13	31	47
Onions				
Harvested.....	89	86	94	NA
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	73	58	94	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.....	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	34	35	13	27
Short	38	40	45	41
Adequate.....	27	25	40	30
Surplus.....	1	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	30	32	22	32
Short	46	45	53	45
Adequate.....	24	23	25	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	--	--	1	3
Poor	1	6	7	6
Fair	21	28	40	28
Good	52	43	45	51
Excellent	26	23	7	12
Chile Peppers				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	16	25	15	9
Fair	18	15	27	29
Good	38	29	39	43
Excellent	28	31	14	17
Corn				
Very poor	--	--	4	2
Poor	8	11	10	6
Fair	18	21	45	39
Good	32	35	6	28
Excellent	42	33	35	25
Cotton				
Very poor	--	--	4	2
Poor	13	18	30	20
Fair	43	46	37	44
Good	21	22	24	28
Excellent	23	14	5	6
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	17	21	6	13
Poor	26	23	36	31
Fair	32	40	34	35
Good	15	6	15	15
Excellent	10	10	9	6
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	25	25	7	12
Fair	50	50	75	54
Good	25	25	13	32
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor	--	--	1	--
Poor	3	7	7	4
Fair	5	9	25	14
Good	12	13	35	62
Excellent	80	71	32	20
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	2	2	1	3
Poor	9	8	16	10
Fair	31	40	33	37
Good	34	35	38	39
Excellent	24	15	12	11
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	9	--	--	13
Poor	12	5	3	11
Fair	31	36	33	31
Good	47	56	60	42
Excellent	1	3	4	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero