

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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: August ended with New Mexico's agriculture in relatively good condition, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Many crops were slightly behind historical timing, but were progressing well. Reports indicated there were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork over the week. The green chile harvest progressed to 64 percent complete, 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. By the end of the week, 86 percent of peanuts had pegged, and the crop condition was reported as 25 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 25 percent good. Cotton was observed in varying condition, generally better than the previous week, with 8 percent rated poor, 39 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Squaring was nearing completion, at 92 percent, according to reports, and 68 percent had started setting bolls. Historically, the first cotton bolls have started opening by this time in New Mexico; growers will likely see that in the coming week. Statewide, 82 percent of corn had silked, 40 percent had reached the dough stage, and 10 percent was dented. The corn silage harvest had yet to begin this year, but a report from Union County told that some millet fields had been harvested as fodder. The United States Drought Monitor published on August 31 noted changes in every category last week, trending towards worsening drought. Less than 1 percent of New Mexico remained drought-free, that area diminishing even further for the seventh consecutive week. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 9 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 32 percent, and severe drought (D2) held at 43 percent. Area in extreme drought (D3) increased from 10 percent to 15 percent. According to NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, most of western New Mexico received up to half an inch of rain last week, with the heaviest precipitation occurring along the New Mexico-Arizona border. Moisture became scattered and sparse moving east, having little beneficial effect, according to reporters. Despite the lack of rain, temperatures in central New Mexico were 3-4 degrees cooler than average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. Some small patches of Eddy, Chaves and De Baca Counties saw highs in the triple-digits, but temperatures for the majority of the State were between 80 and 90 degrees. Cattle continued to fare well, the excellent category up another 8 percent from the previous week, but 16 percent of sheep remained in poor to very poor condition. Pecan nut set was reported as 11 percent light and 89 percent moderate. Hail damage to all crops was reported as 14 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe, while wind damage to all crops was reported as 5 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 37 percent short, and 38 percent adequate. Stock water supplies were reported as 23 percent very short, 35 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	84	80	98	NA
4 th cutting harvested	34	20	56	73
Chiles				
Green harvested	64	59	75	62
Corn				
Silked	82	70	NA	NA
Doughed	40	25	57	64
Dented	10	1	6	34
Cotton				
Squaring.....	92	91	NA	NA
Setting Bolls.....	68	57	76	77
Peanuts				
Pegging.....	86	82	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.....	7.0	6.5	6.9	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	46	45	8	24
Short	40	40	38	42
Adequate.....	14	15	52	31
Surplus.....	--	--	2	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	50	46	17	33
Short	34	38	47	43
Adequate.....	16	16	35	23
Surplus.....	--	--	1	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	--	1	3	4
Fair	14	23	24	22
Good	48	46	59	53
Excellent.....	38	30	14	17
Corn				
Very poor	--	--	4	2
Poor	4	2	5	5
Fair	19	28	30	38
Good	28	24	20	30
Excellent.....	49	46	41	25
Cotton				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	8	15	29	20
Fair	39	35	36	41
Good	17	23	24	30
Excellent.....	36	27	6	7
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	6	10	3	12
Poor	14	23	24	30
Fair	24	25	32	35
Good	25	20	30	18
Excellent.....	31	22	11	5
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	25	25	7	11
Fair	50	50	75	53
Good	25	25	13	34
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor	--	1	1	--
Poor	1	1	4	2
Fair	1	1	17	11
Good	5	6	36	65
Excellent.....	93	91	42	22
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	1	2	1	4
Poor	4	5	5	8
Fair	28	25	25	37
Good	27	36	38	33
Excellent.....	40	32	31	18
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	8	12	--	7
Poor	8	12	2	7
Fair	29	32	25	28
Good	48	41	55	50
Excellent.....	7	3	18	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero