

# 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  
 September 11, 2023

Contact: Margie Whitcotton  
 (800) 392-3202

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** A few crops showed declines in condition last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Most crops were progressing nicely but remained behind last year and the 5-year average. Reports indicated there were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork over the week. The green chile harvest progressed to 66 percent complete, but fell 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average of 70 percent. By the end of the week, 90 percent of peanuts had pegged, and the crop condition remained as 25 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 25 percent good. Cotton condition declined slightly, with 16 percent rated poor, 35 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Squaring was nearing completion, at 94 percent, according to reports, and 69 percent of the crop had started setting bolls; 3 percent showed the bolls opening. Statewide, 83 percent of corn had silked, 41 percent had reached the dough stage, and 13 percent was dented. After weeks of worsening conditions, 100 percent of New Mexico now suffered from some form of drought. The abnormally dry category (D0) and moderate drought (D1) category both decreased when compared with last week, sitting at 5 percent and 27 percent respectively. Severe drought (D2) rose to 49 percent. The area in extreme drought (D3) also increased, from 15 percent to 20 percent. On September 7, the National Weather Service issued a drought information statement due to widespread drought conditions when 100 percent of the State was under D0-D3 conditions. According to the statement the extreme drought conditions were primarily in southeastern New Mexico, with growing areas in southwestern and northwestern New Mexico. The NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reported measurable rainfall for every county in New Mexico last week. For most of the State, it barely registered as moisture received, less than 0.10 inch, but parts of the central eastern counties saw up to 2 inches. San Juan, McKinley, and Rio Arriba counties received the least rain, and in general, the moisture had little beneficial effect, according to reporters. After a slightly cooler end to August, temperatures in New Mexico were 1-8 degrees hotter than average last week, 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 condition declined some, with the good to excellent range showing 62 percent, compared with 67 percent last week. Pecan nut set was reported as 20 percent light and 80 percent moderate. Hail damage to all crops was reported as 5 percent light, 7 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe, while wind damage to all crops was reported as 8 percent light, 4 percent moderate and 2 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 19 percent very short, 46 percent short, 34 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 17 percent very short, 36 percent short, 45 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 <sup>rd</sup> cutting harvested .....	86	84	NA	NA
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	62	34	73	84
Chiles				
Green harvested.....	66	64	85	70
Corn				
Silked.....	83	82	NA	NA
Doughed.....	41	40	75	76
Dented.....	13	10	19	48
Cotton				
Squaring .....	94	92	NA	NA
Setting Bolls.....	69	68	86	NA
Bolls Opening .....	3	--	6	14
Peanuts				
Pegging .....	90	86	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	1	NA	18	29

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	7.0	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture		(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	45	46	10	24
Short.....	42	40	39	42
Adequate .....	13	14	49	31
Surplus .....	--	--	2	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	44	50	18	32
Short.....	43	34	49	43
Adequate .....	13	16	32	24
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)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	1	4
Poor .....	3	--	6	5
Fair.....	9	14	29	25
Good.....	41	48	50	51
Excellent .....	47	38	14	15
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor .....	2	--	3	1
Poor .....	5	4	4	3
Fair.....	19	19	25	35
Good.....	34	28	23	31
Excellent .....	40	49	45	30
<b>Cotton</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	4	2
Poor .....	16	8	27	18
Fair.....	35	39	34	39
Good.....	21	17	25	30
Excellent .....	28	36	10	11
<b>Pasture and Range</b>				
Very poor .....	7	6	3	12
Poor .....	23	14	26	29
Fair.....	25	24	32	38
Good.....	18	25	29	16
Excellent .....	27	31	10	5
<b>Peanuts</b>				
Very poor .....	--	--	5	2
Poor .....	25	25	7	13
Fair.....	50	50	75	51
Good.....	25	25	13	34
Excellent .....	--	--	--	--
<b>Pecans</b>				
Very poor .....	1	--	1	--
Poor .....	1	1	5	3
Fair.....	1	1	15	11
Good.....	6	5	38	66
Excellent .....	91	93	41	20
<b>Cattle and calves</b>				
Very poor .....	2	1	2	3
Poor .....	2	4	5	9
Fair.....	34	28	30	37
Good.....	28	27	40	36
Excellent .....	34	40	23	15
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>				
Very poor .....	2	8	--	5
Poor .....	2	8	1	6
Fair.....	30	29	30	31
Good.....	56	48	60	52
Excellent .....	10	7	9	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero