

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Crops and livestock alike responded positively to the rain and cooler weather that hit New Mexico last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Due to heavy storms toward the end of the week, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. The green chile harvest progressed to 76 percent complete, only 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average of 79 percent. Peanuts were nearly all pegged, 94 percent across the State, and the crop condition remained as 25 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 25 percent good. Cotton condition declined slightly, with 18 percent rated poor, 36 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Reporters observed 71 percent of cotton had set bolls, and 8 percent had begun opening. Statewide, 86 percent of corn had silked, 54 percent had reached the dough stage, and 25 percent was dented. As the crop matured in Union County, signs of early-season hail damage were becoming more evident. The harvest of corn for silage began last week, a few weeks later than normal. Despite significant rainfall, the drought information statement issued by the National Weather Service on September 7, remained in effect. The statement was in response to widespread drought conditions, including extreme drought conditions primarily in southeastern New Mexico, with growing areas in southwestern and northwestern New Mexico. For the second week, the entire State experienced abnormally dry, or drought conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions were unchanged from the previous week. The abnormally dry category (D0) held at 5 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 27 percent, severe drought (D2) was 49 percent, and the area in extreme drought (D3) was 20 percent. These conditions do not reflect the storms that hit New Mexico later in the week. The NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reported measurable rainfall for every county in New Mexico last week. Most of the State recorded about 1 inch of rain, but parts of Curry, De Baca, and Roosevelt Counties received up to 3 inches, as did some areas of Catron, Grant, and Sierra Counties in the west. The peaks surrounding the Taos Ski Valley saw the first snowfall of the season. Rangeland in Union County showed immediate improvement after the rains, and grasses greened up according to one reporter in the area. Temperatures swung from hotter-than-average the week before, to average, or cooler-than-average, last week. Northern New Mexico was 1-6 degrees cooler than average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. The southwest corner of the State was just slightly warmer than normal. Livestock condition improved from the previous week, and cattle and sheep both fared better than the 5-year average. Pecan nut set improved slightly to 11 percent light and 89 percent moderate. Thursday storms brought hail and damaging winds to parts of New Mexico, mostly along and north of Interstate 40. Hail damage to all crops was reported as 9 percent light, 11 percent moderate, and 8 percent severe, while wind damage to all crops was reported as 12 percent light, 8 percent moderate, and 8 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 12 percent very short, 40 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 30 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	90	86	NA	NA
4 th cutting harvested	80	62	86	NA
5 th cutting harvested	2	NA	32	47
Chiles				
Green harvested	76	66	93	79
Corn				
Silked	86	83	NA	NA
Doughed	54	41	86	85
Dented	25	13	34	61
Harvested for silage	4	--	12	49
Cotton				
Setting Bolls	71	69	92	NA
Bolls Opening	8	3	16	22
Peanuts				
Pegging	94	90	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	19	1	23	42

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	7.0	6.9	6.7
Topsoil moisture	(percent)		(percent)	(percent)
Very short	54	45	12	24
Short	33	42	43	40
Adequate	13	13	43	34
Surplus	--	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	53	44	23	33
Short	34	43	53	42
Adequate	13	13	23	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)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	--	2	4
Poor	4	3	9	6
Fair	8	9	25	25
Good	50	41	45	49
Excellent	38	47	19	16
Corn				
Very poor	3	2	4	1
Poor	7	5	6	3
Fair	28	19	18	36
Good	31	34	27	29
Excellent	31	40	45	31
Cotton				
Very poor	--	--	5	3
Poor	18	16	31	19
Fair	36	35	38	41
Good	27	21	22	30
Excellent	19	28	4	7
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	8	7	4	11
Poor	16	23	30	30
Fair	16	25	36	38
Good	24	18	20	15
Excellent	36	27	10	6
Peanuts				
Very poor	--	--	5	2
Poor	25	25	7	13
Fair	50	50	75	51
Good	25	25	13	34
Excellent	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor	1	1	1	--
Poor	1	1	5	4
Fair	1	1	10	11
Good	6	6	44	65
Excellent	91	91	40	20
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	--	2	2	3
Poor	3	2	6	8
Fair	26	34	36	39
Good	28	28	36	34
Excellent	43	34	20	16
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	--	2	--	5
Poor	3	2	2	6
Fair	26	30	35	35
Good	58	56	57	49
Excellent	13	10	6	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero