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 24, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The calendar marked the last week of summer, but crop progress in New Mexico was a couple weeks behind historical averages for the season, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork. The green chile harvest progressed to 78 percent complete, falling further behind the 5-year average of 85 percent. The first of this season's red chiles were harvested as well. Peanuts were 97 percent pegged, and producers will begin harvest soon. The crop condition remained as 25 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 25 percent good. Reporters observed 77 percent of cotton fields had set bolls, and 23 percent had begun opening. Historically, 32 percent have opened by the end of summer. Statewide, 95 percent of corn had silked, 67 percent had reached the dough stage, and 38 percent was dented. In Union County, approximately 5 percent of corn acres that were planned for harvest as grain were abandoned, and another 5-10 percent were being chopped for silage. Statewide, only 15 percent of the corn fields had been harvested for silage, compared with an average of 62 percent. The changing season was felt in the Española Valley, with cooler temperatures and the start of the apple harvest. Farmers in Union County planned to start cutting millet for forage in the coming week.

Drought conditions increased in intensity last week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, with a notable percentage of land moving up from abnormally dry to moderate drought and from severe drought to extreme drought. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 3 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 29 percent, severe drought (D2) was 37 percent, and the area in extreme drought (D3) was up from 20 percent to 31 percent. 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. The NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service reported spotty rainfall across New Mexico last week. Most of the State saw less than a quarter of an inch, but counties along I-25 recorded up to an inch. In the northeast, Colfax, Mora, and Union Counties were essentially dry all week. Reports from Union County said fire danger was extreme, and rangeland in the area was starting to show signs of drought-related stress. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s for most of the State, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. Temperatures in the northwest were a few degrees cooler-than-average, while the southeast trended slightly hotter-than-average for this time of year. Despite the lack of moisture this summer, livestock in New Mexico were faring significantly better than the 5-year average, including 51 percent of cattle and 20 percent of sheep in excellent condition. Yearling cattle in Rio Arriba County were gathered and shipped last week. Pecan nut set was 14 percent light and 86 percent moderate. This was worse than the previous year and the 5-year average which include heavy nut set at 5 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Local weather reports warned of high winds throughout the week, with gusts in the west reaching 25-35 mph. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 12 percent light, 12 percent moderate, and 6 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was reported as 12 percent light, 15 percent moderate, and 10 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 13 percent very short, 31 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 10 percent very short, 25 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
3rd cutting harvested	95	90	NA	NA
4th cutting harvested	85	80	94	NA
5th cutting harvested	4	2	44	59
Chiles				
Green harvested	78	76	97	85
Red harvested..	4	NA	21	8
Corn				
Silked	95	86	NA	NA
Doughed	67	54	94	NA
Dented	38	25	51	72
Harvested for silage	15	4	32	62
Cotton				
Setting Bolls...	77	71	96	NA
Bolls Opening...	23	8	29	32
Peanuts				
Pegging..	97	94	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted...	37	19	39	60
Emerged	2	NA	22	37

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	6.9	6.6	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short...	49	54	15	24
Short...	29	33	45	40
Adequate	22	13	38	34
Surplus	--	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short...	46	53	29	34
Short...	32	34	51	42
Adequate	22	13	20	23
Surplus	--	--	--	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor..	--	--	1	4
Poor..	--	4	5	6
Fair	12	8	23	28
Good...	59	50	50	46
Excellent...	29	38	21	16
Corn				
Very poor..	4	3	4	1
Poor..	7	7	10	4
Fair	21	28	20	34
Good...	38	31	29	30
Excellent...	30	31	37	31
Cotton				
Very poor..	--	--	5	3
Poor..	12	18	31	17
Fair	37	36	38	40
Good...	23	27	22	33
Excellent...	28	19	4	7
Pasture and Range				
Very poor..	6	8	8	13
Poor..	14	16	32	29
Fair	21	16	39	40
Good...	32	24	13	12
Excellent...	27	36	8	6
Peanuts				
Very poor..	--	--	5	3
Poor..	25	25	7	13
Fair	50	50	75	50
Good...	25	25	13	34
Excellent...	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor..	--	1	1	--
Poor..	1	1	4	4
Fair	1	1	8	11
Good...	5	6	41	61
Excellent...	93	91	46	24
Cattle and calves				
Very poor..	1	--	2	3
Poor..	3	3	6	8
Fair	17	26	44	40
Good...	28	28	35	33
Excellent...	51	43	13	16
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor..	--	--	2	12
Poor..	--	3	4	7
Fair	17	26	38	35
Good...	63	58	53	42
Excellent...	20	13	3	4

NA – not available
(--) – zero