

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 OCTOBER 1, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Crops and livestock alike were proving resilient in New Mexico, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Agriculture across the State last week was observed in mostly fair or better condition despite early season hail and worsening drought. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork. The green chile harvest continued for another week, reaching 90 percent complete by week's end. Significant progress was seen in the red chile harvest, which jumped from 4 percent the previous week, to 23 percent complete. The cotton crop was looking better-than-average, with 56 percent observed in good or excellent condition, compared with 30 percent last year. Though in good condition, cotton progress is significantly behind the 5-year average. Last week, 80 percent of cotton fields had set bolls, and 25 percent had begun opening. Historically, the crop had finished setting bolls by this time, and 46 percent have opened. Statewide, 77 percent of the corn crop had reached the dough stage, 51 percent was dented, and 9 percent was mature. The corn for silage harvest sat at just 18 percent complete, compared with progress of 50 percent last year.

Drought conditions increased in intensity last week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, with land moving to exceptional drought status for the first time since May of this year. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 3 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 29 percent, severe drought (D2) was 35 percent, extreme drought (D3) was 25 percent, and the area in exceptional drought (D4) was 7 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 rainfall totaling more than 1 inch across eastern New Mexico last week. Many parts of the State have seen increased precipitation in recent weeks; however, NOAA experts say it is not enough to make up for several months of extremely hot, dry weather. The first week of fall was unseasonably warm in New Mexico, with temperatures 3-5 degrees above average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. Despite the lack of moisture this summer, livestock in New Mexico were faring significantly better than the 5-year average, including 42 percent of cattle and 11 percent of sheep in excellent condition, compared with 11 percent and 1 percent last year. Pecan nut set was observed as 23 percent light and 77 percent moderate, a slight drop from the previous week of 14 percent and 86 percent, respectively. This remains worse than the previous year and the 5-year average, which include heavy nut set at 10 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Local weather reports warned of possible incoming storms, following wind gusts of 35-55 mph recorded toward the end of last week. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 14 percent light, 14 percent moderate, and 6 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was reported as 13 percent light, 20 percent moderate, and 13 percent severe. One reporter noted that hail damage has become more apparent as crops mature, explaining the creep in numbers, despite no hail falling during the week. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 16 percent very short, 39 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 14 percent very short, 31 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Conditions for both hay and roughage, and stock water worsened slightly from the previous week.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
4 th cutting harvested	87	85	NA	NA
5 th cutting harvested	15	4	64	71
6 th cutting harvested	1	NA	13	23
Chiles				
Green harvested	90	78	NA	NA
Red harvested.....	23	4	35	17
Corn				
Doughed	77	67	NA	NA
Dented	51	38	70	81
Mature.....	9	NA	32	56
Harvested for silage.....	18	15	50	72
Cotton				
Setting Bolls.....	80	77	NA	NA
Bolls Opening.....	25	23	50	46
Onions				
Planted.....	5	NA	13	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	55	37	57	75
Emerged	20	2	38	52

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	6.9	6.7	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	42	49	18	25
Short.....	38	29	48	39
Adequate.....	20	22	32	34
Surplus.....	--	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	39	46	30	35
Short.....	41	32	50	40
Adequate.....	20	22	20	24
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	5
Poor.....	1	--	4	6
Fair.....	20	12	20	26
Good.....	57	59	57	48
Excellent.....	22	29	18	15
Corn				
Very poor.....	7	4	4	1
Poor.....	6	7	15	6
Fair.....	26	21	24	33
Good.....	40	38	29	32
Excellent.....	21	30	28	28
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	2
Poor.....	11	12	27	17
Fair.....	33	37	38	42
Good.....	32	23	26	33
Excellent.....	24	28	4	6
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	8	6	6	15
Poor.....	23	14	32	26
Fair.....	28	21	41	39
Good.....	23	32	14	14
Excellent.....	18	27	7	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	2
Poor.....	25	25	7	12
Fair.....	50	50	75	53
Good.....	25	25	13	33
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	--
Poor.....	1	1	4	3
Fair.....	4	1	5	11
Good.....	10	5	38	62
Excellent.....	84	93	52	24
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	3	1	1	2
Poor.....	3	3	6	10
Fair.....	22	17	44	40
Good.....	30	28	38	34
Excellent.....	42	51	11	14
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	6	--	1	10
Poor.....	8	--	4	8
Fair.....	21	17	43	35
Good.....	54	63	51	44
Excellent.....	11	20	1	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero