

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE**  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Despite warmer-than-average temperatures, the fields in New Mexico were showing signs of a cooler season coming with the onset of the peanut harvest, and onions starting to emerge, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Growers all but finished the 2023 green chile harvest and began harvesting corn for grain. Corn progress remains slow this year, with only 29 percent of the crop having reached the mature stage last week, compared with 76 percent mature historically. The first peanuts were also harvested last week, reaching 19 percent complete, on track with previous years. Like corn, cotton progress was slow this year. By week's end, only 40 percent of bolls had opened. The crop seems happy with the slow pace though: 42 percent was observed in excellent condition, compared with 7 percent normally. The 2024 onion crop was 12 percent planted last week with 7 percent emerged. Winter wheat progressed quite a bit last week, jumping from 75 percent planted and 47 percent emerged the previous week, to 88 percent and 62 percent, respectively.

Drought conditions in New Mexico were nearly unchanged from the week before, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Again, 0.4 percent of the State was considered drought-free. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 5 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 26 percent, severe drought (D2) was 36 percent, extreme drought (D3) was 26 percent, and the area in exceptional drought (D4) held at 7 percent. On October 5, the National Weather Service issued an updated drought information statement for New Mexico that remains in effect. The statement was in response to widespread drought conditions, including extreme drought conditions primarily in southern New Mexico. Due to combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions, drought conditions were likely to persist through fall. The NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service recorded scattered showers throughout the week, but no beneficial moisture was observed. Temperatures in New Mexico dipped a couple of degrees above average last week, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Cattle in New Mexico continue to thrive. The number of cattle observed to be in good or excellent condition was 67 percent, well above the 5-year average of 49 percent. Sheep conditions continue to worsen heading into fall. Sheep in very poor condition increased to 16 percent, up from 14 percent the previous week, and double the 5-year average of 8 percent. Pecan nut set was observed as 5 percent light and 95 percent moderate, an improvement from the previous week, but slightly worse than the previous year and the 5-year average, which included heavy nut set at 20 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 10 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was reported as 8 percent light, 17 percent moderate, and 6 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies deteriorated slightly from the previous week, and were observed to be 25 percent very short, 46 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were 20 percent very short, 43 percent short, 36 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, also a slight decline from the previous week.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
5 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	45	30	93	NA
6 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	20	15	50	52
Chiles				
Green harvested .....	95	92	NA	NA
Red harvested.....	30	27	75	41
Corn				
Doughed .....	94	85	NA	NA
Dented .....	70	61	94	NA
Mature .....	29	20	65	76
Harvested for grain .....	4	--	5	14
Harvested for silage .....	32	30	78	87
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	40	35	73	68
Onions				
Planted.....	12	10	38	NA
Emerged .....	7	NA	4	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	19	--	20	18
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	88	75	77	87
Emerged .....	62	47	60	73

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.....	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	32	35	15	22
Short.....	55	47	37	38
Adequate.....	11	16	43	36
Surplus.....	2	2	5	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	31	34	23	27
Short.....	59	50	48	42
Adequate.....	9	16	27	29
Surplus.....	1	--	2	2

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	NA
Poor.....	--	--	7	NA
Fair.....	33	26	26	NA
Good.....	63	61	51	NA
Excellent.....	4	13	15	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	7	4	1
Poor.....	10	7	9	6
Fair.....	29	25	16	28
Good.....	35	31	32	32
Excellent.....	23	30	39	33
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	2
Poor.....	11	11	23	17
Fair.....	28	29	37	45
Good.....	19	27	30	29
Excellent.....	42	33	7	7
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	7	7	3	12
Poor.....	22	29	24	28
Fair.....	42	37	38	39
Good.....	14	14	25	16
Excellent.....	15	13	10	5
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	2
Poor.....	25	25	7	10
Fair.....	50	50	75	55
Good.....	25	25	13	33
Excellent.....	--	--	--	--
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	0
Poor.....	1	2	3	2
Fair.....	2	3	3	9
Good.....	11	2	33	62
Excellent.....	86	93	61	27
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	2
Poor.....	9	4	3	9
Fair.....	22	27	32	40
Good.....	43	34	48	35
Excellent.....	24	33	16	14
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	16	14	--	8
Poor.....	15	13	3	9
Fair.....	32	26	38	33
Good.....	36	45	57	47
Excellent.....	1	2	2	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero