

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 22, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Surveying the fields in New Mexico last week, many had been turned over and planted for the 2024 crop, while others were yet to be harvested of their summer crop, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week, split between planting the new crop and harvesting the old. Onions reached 40 percent planted and 10 percent emerged last week, and winter wheat was 91 percent planted and 77 percent emerged. Initial observations of the emerged wheat report the crop condition as 21 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 2 percent good and 10 percent excellent, worse condition than in previous years, but with plenty of time in the season to improve. The 2023 green chile crop was gone from the fields, and red chiles sat at 40 percent harvested. Peanuts were also harvested, sitting at 28 percent by the end of the week. Sorghum harvest was also underway, according to reports from Union County. Only 9 percent of corn for grain had been harvested, and just 42 percent of cotton bolls had opened. Historically, 22 percent of corn for grain has been harvested by this time, and 78 percent of cotton bolls have opened. Cotton conditions were less uniform last week than earlier in the season. Eight percent of the crop was observed in very poor condition, and 51 percent was observed in excellent condition—both increases from the previous week.

Drought conditions in New Mexico were 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 were 5-8 degrees above average last week for most of the State, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. Highs were in the mid-80s and 90s, and included record heat at the end of the week.

Livestock in New Mexico were looking better than average throughout the summer but, perhaps because of prolonged drought conditions, their condition is back on par with previous years. Last week, the number of cattle observed to be in good or excellent condition was 62 percent, while the number in poor or very poor condition rose to 13 percent. Sheep have been in worse condition than cattle all summer, but some improvements were observed last week. Sheep in poor or very poor condition dropped by 6 percent from the previous week, while the good category rose by 5 percent. Pecan nut set was observed as 1 percent light and 99 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 26 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 3 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was reported as 5 percent light, 13 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies continued to deteriorate, and were observed to be 34 percent very short, 47 percent short, 18 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were 24 percent very short, 49 percent short, and 27 percent adequate, also a decline from the previous week.

CROP PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa Hay | | | | |
| 5 th cutting harvested | 48 | 45 | NA | NA |
| 6 th cutting harvested | 21 | 20 | 60 | 63 |
| Chiles | | | | |
| Red harvested..... | 40 | 30 | 78 | 50 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Dented | 85 | 70 | NA | NA |
| Mature | 48 | 29 | 79 | 85 |
| Harvested for grain | 9 | 4 | 11 | 22 |
| Harvested for silage | 46 | 32 | 82 | NA |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Bolls Opening..... | 42 | 40 | 75 | 78 |
| Onions | | | | |
| Planted..... | 40 | 12 | 46 | NA |
| Emerged | 10 | 7 | 7 | NA |
| Peanuts | | | | |
| Harvested..... | 28 | 19 | 38 | 36 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Planted..... | 91 | 88 | 89 | 93 |
| Emerged | 77 | 62 | 76 | 81 |

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 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 6.1 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 39 | 32 | 15 | 23 |
| Short..... | 59 | 55 | 38 | 37 |
| Adequate..... | 2 | 11 | 43 | 37 |
| Surplus..... | -- | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short..... | 38 | 31 | 20 | 27 |
| Short..... | 60 | 59 | 45 | 42 |
| Adequate..... | 2 | 9 | 33 | 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..... | -- | -- | NA | NA |
| Poor..... | 1 | -- | NA | NA |
| Fair..... | 34 | 33 | NA | NA |
| Good..... | 59 | 63 | NA | NA |
| Excellent..... | 6 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Corn | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Poor..... | 19 | 10 | 7 | 6 |
| Fair..... | 37 | 29 | 14 | 28 |
| Good..... | 26 | 35 | 40 | 35 |
| Excellent..... | 14 | 23 | 38 | 30 |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 8 | -- | -- | 2 |
| Poor..... | 10 | 11 | 17 | 16 |
| Fair..... | 21 | 28 | 31 | 41 |
| Good..... | 10 | 19 | 37 | 33 |
| Excellent..... | 51 | 42 | 15 | 8 |
| Pasture and Range | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 11 | 7 | 1 | 13 |
| Poor..... | 27 | 22 | 24 | 26 |
| Fair..... | 37 | 42 | 36 | 39 |
| Good..... | 11 | 14 | 28 | 16 |
| Excellent..... | 14 | 15 | 11 | 6 |
| Pecans | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 1 | -- | -- | 1 |
| Poor..... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Fair..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Good..... | 2 | 11 | 33 | 56 |
| Excellent..... | 95 | 86 | 61 | 29 |
| Winter Wheat | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 21 | NA | -- | 3 |
| Poor..... | 17 | NA | 12 | 22 |
| Fair..... | 50 | NA | 44 | 26 |
| Good..... | 2 | NA | 33 | 35 |
| Excellent..... | 10 | NA | 11 | 14 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 2 | 2 | -- | 1 |
| Poor..... | 11 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| Fair..... | 25 | 22 | 32 | 39 |
| Good..... | 47 | 43 | 46 | 35 |
| Excellent..... | 15 | 24 | 20 | 16 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Very poor..... | 12 | 16 | -- | 7 |
| Poor..... | 13 | 15 | 1 | 10 |
| Fair..... | 33 | 32 | 36 | 33 |
| Good..... | 41 | 36 | 61 | 48 |
| Excellent..... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

NA – not available
 (--) – zero