

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 29, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Even as colder temperatures and light snow moved in, drought warnings persisted for New Mexico through the final week of October, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Winter wheat planting was nearly completed last week, hitting 94 percent. Eighty-nine percent of the crop had emerged, and crop condition was observed as 12 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 52 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 10 percent excellent, worse condition than in previous years, but with plenty of time in the season to improve. The first pecans of the season were harvested, and 93 percent of the crop was observed in excellent condition. Peanuts were also harvested, sitting at 37 percent complete by the end of the week., a bit behind the 5-year average, but in mostly good condition. Sorghum harvest in Union County sat at 50 percent complete, and all the sunflowers from the area had been harvested. Statewide, corn harvest for grain and silage continued, reaching 20 percent and 64 percent respectively. Cotton remained in mostly good or excellent condition, with open bolls reaching 55 percent. Onions for the 2024 crop were 43 percent planted and 24 percent emerged, about on par with previous year progress.

Drought conditions in New Mexico worsened slightly from the week before, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, with the severe, extreme, and exceptional drought categories all increasing. Since the beginning of October, the drought-free area has held at 0.4 percent. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 5 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 17 percent, severe drought (D2) was 42 percent, extreme drought (D3) was 29 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. It was warmer-than-average for most of the week in New Mexico, with temperatures in the northeast reaching 8 degrees above average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. By Friday, a cold front had moved in over the eastern part of the State, dropping temperatures along the Texas state line by 15 to 40 degrees and threatening light snow in the central high terrain.

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 52 percent, down 10 percent from the previous week. 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, and the excellent category rose to 1 percent. Pecan nut set was observed as 6 percent light and 94 percent moderate, a slight decline from the previous week. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 6 percent light, 3 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was slightly improved from the previous week, reported as 4 percent light, 7 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies continued to deteriorate, and were observed to be 39 percent very short, 43 percent short, 17 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were 28 percent very short, 44 percent short, and 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
5 th cutting harvested	49	48	NA	NA
6 th cutting harvested	29	21	67	72
Chiles				
Red harvested.....	55	40	81	61
Corn				
Dented	88	85	NA	NA
Mature	62	48	86	NA
Harvested for grain	20	9	15	31
Harvested for silage	64	46	87	NA
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	55	42	77	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	43	40	56	NA
Emerged	24	10	9	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	37	28	53	53
Pecans				
Harvested.....	2	NA	9	4
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	94	91	94	NA
Emerged	89	77	80	85

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	6.9	6.5	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	36	39	20	23
Short.....	52	59	34	35
Adequate.....	11	2	42	37
Surplus.....	1	--	4	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	38	38	15	25
Short.....	51	60	41	39
Adequate.....	11	2	42	33
Surplus.....	--	--	2	3

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.....	2	1	NA	NA
Fair.....	32	34	NA	NA
Good.....	62	59	NA	NA
Excellent.....	4	6	NA	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	4	2	1
Poor.....	17	19	2	4
Fair.....	46	37	5	26
Good.....	24	26	44	35
Excellent.....	10	14	47	34
Cotton				
Very poor.....	9	8	3	3
Poor.....	13	10	21	17
Fair.....	25	21	37	39
Good.....	11	10	29	32
Excellent.....	42	51	10	9
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	13	11	4	10
Poor.....	36	27	24	25
Fair.....	41	37	27	40
Good.....	5	11	36	19
Excellent.....	5	14	9	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	5	NA
Poor.....	25	25	7	NA
Fair.....	50	50	75	NA
Good.....	25	25	13	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	--	NA
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor.....	2	1	3	3
Fair.....	3	1	3	11
Good.....	1	2	37	52
Excellent.....	93	95	57	32
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	12	21	1	1
Poor.....	15	17	5	22
Fair.....	52	50	48	28
Good.....	11	2	31	32
Excellent.....	10	10	15	17
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	3	2
Poor.....	12	11	6	9
Fair.....	34	25	31	37
Good.....	42	47	43	36
Excellent.....	10	15	17	16
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	8	12	5	5
Poor.....	11	13	7	10
Fair.....	39	33	27	33
Good.....	40	41	52	48
Excellent.....	2	1	9	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero