

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 NOVEMBER 5, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The clocks changed in New Mexico last week, and the weather did not know whether to spring forward or fall back, as warmer than average weather was observed for the first week of November, according to the Mountain Regional Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were a full 7 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Winter wheat planting was nearly completed last week, hitting 96 percent. Ninety-one percent of the crop had emerged, and crop condition was observed as 4 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 51 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 19 percent excellent, a strong improvement from the previous week. The pecan harvest climbed to 7 percent complete, with 95 percent of the crop observed in excellent condition. Peanuts were also harvested, sitting at 46 percent complete by the end of the week, dropping further behind the 5-year average. The red chile harvest continued at a steady pace, reaching 68 percent last week. Statewide, corn harvest for grain and silage continued, observed at 36 percent and 75 percent respectively. Union County observed the grain harvest ahead of the State, at 85 percent harvested. Progress was reported from the cotton fields, where 72 percent of bolls had opened and 41 percent of the crop had been harvested. The harvest is ahead of the 5-year average, but cotton condition deteriorated slightly from the previous week. Onions for the 2024 crop were 45 percent planted and 35 percent emerged, about on par with previous year progress.

Land in the more intense drought categories remained unchanged for New Mexico last week, but there was a slight decrease in drought-free land, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought-free area was 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. With no precipitation during the week, Union County reported that range conditions were extremely dry and fire danger was high. Temperatures fluctuated last week, dropping to the teens, 20s and 30s in the morning, followed by warmer weather as the week progressed. Early in the week, temperatures along the Texas state line dipped to 8 degrees below average, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, but Friday brought reports of more warm weather.

Despite poor range conditions and short hay supplies, livestock in New Mexico were looking better than the previous week. Last week, the number of cattle observed to be in good or excellent condition was 54 percent, up 2 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 4 percent from the previous week, and the excellent category rose to 6 percent. Wind damage to all crops was reported as 10 percent light, 6 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe, while hail damage to all crops was 7 percent light, 11 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe. Both wind and hail damage were slightly worse than the previous week. Hay and roughage supplies improved slightly from the previous week but remained in worse condition than prior years. Hay and roughage supplies were observed to be 30 percent very short, 47 percent short, 21 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. At 19 percent very short, 42 percent short, 36 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, stock water supplies were shorter than the 5-year average.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa Hay				
5 th cutting harvested	67	49	NA	NA
6 th cutting harvested	47	29	80	NA
Chiles				
Red harvested.....	68	55	84	71
Corn				
Dented	90	88	NA	NA
Mature	75	62	92	NA
Harvested for grain	36	20	18	42
Harvested for silage	75	64	91	NA
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	72	55	85	NA
Harvested.....	41	NA	23	27
Onions				
Planted.....	45	43	60	NA
Emerged	35	24	15	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	46	37	73	72
Pecans				
Harvested.....	7	2	11	5
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	96	94	98	NA
Emerged	91	89	89	90

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.....	7.0	6.6	6.4	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	42	36	12	22
Short.....	43	52	39	37
Adequate.....	14	11	45	38
Surplus.....	1	1	4	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	41	38	14	24
Short.....	42	51	46	41
Adequate.....	16	11	38	33
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.....	2	2	NA	NA
Fair.....	40	32	NA	NA
Good.....	53	62	NA	NA
Excellent.....	5	4	NA	NA
Cotton				
Very poor.....	11	9	--	2
Poor.....	18	13	15	17
Fair.....	28	25	38	40
Good.....	10	11	32	33
Excellent.....	33	42	15	8
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	11	13	2	10
Poor.....	39	36	17	26
Fair.....	35	41	32	39
Good.....	8	5	40	19
Excellent.....	7	5	9	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	25	25	NA	NA
Fair.....	50	50	NA	NA
Good.....	25	25	NA	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	NA	NA
Pecans				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor.....	1	2	3	5
Fair.....	2	3	3	10
Good.....	1	1	37	53
Excellent.....	95	93	57	30
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	4	12	--	1
Poor.....	11	15	--	20
Fair.....	51	52	43	25
Good.....	15	11	44	34
Excellent.....	19	10	13	20
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	3
Poor.....	4	12	3	8
Fair.....	40	34	32	34
Good.....	37	42	49	39
Excellent.....	17	10	15	16
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	5	8	--	3
Poor.....	10	11	1	8
Fair.....	37	39	19	35
Good.....	42	40	54	48
Excellent.....	6	2	26	6

NA – not available

(--) – zero