

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 12, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Summer crops like corn and chile were still in the fields as snow fell in the mountains of New Mexico, according to the Mountain Regional Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week. At 93 percent emerged, winter wheat progress is tracking closely with the previous year, which was 94 percent. The pecan harvest climbed to 35 percent complete, a big jump from the previous week, and well ahead of the 5-year average of 11 percent. Pecan condition was observed to be deteriorating from the previous week, perhaps driving the big harvest week. Peanut harvest, on the other hand, was behind the 5-year average by 30 percent, reported at 55 percent last week. The red chile harvest continued at a steady pace, reaching 70 percent last week. Statewide, corn harvest for grain and silage continued, observed at 41 percent and 82 percent respectively. In the cotton fields, 79 percent of bolls had opened, and 45 percent of the crop had been harvested. Cotton condition was comparable to previous years, with the crop spread fairly evenly between the poor to excellent categories. Onions for the 2024 crop reached 52 percent planted and 40 percent emerged. By this time last year, 77 percent of the onion crop was in the ground.

The biggest change in New Mexico's drought status last week was a 7 percentage point increase to the extreme drought category, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought-free area held at 0.4 percent. The abnormally dry category (D0) dropped from 5 percent the previous week to 3 percent, moderate drought (D1) changed from 17 percent to 12 percent, severe drought (D2) was still 42 percent, extreme drought (D3) hit 36 percent, and the area in exceptional drought (D4) remained 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. Despite higher-than-average temperatures, highs recorded 1-5 degrees above normal by the High Plains Regional Climate Center, parts of the State saw the season's first snow. Moisture in the southern half of the State turned to snow as it spread northward and into the mountains. The precipitation levels recorded by the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service were minimal and quick to dry with the hotter temperatures.

Last week, the number of cattle observed to be in good or excellent condition was 43 percent, down 11 percent from the previous week. Sheep were observed in better-than-average condition last week. Sheep in poor or very poor condition dropped to 0 percent and the excellent category jumped from 6 percent the previous week, to 10 percent last week, which is double the 5-year average. The only observed wind damage was 11 percent light. Hail damage to all crops was 9 percent light and 4 percent moderate. Both wind and hail damage were slightly better 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 25 percent very short, 42 percent short, 30 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. At 14 percent very short, 37 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus, stock water supplies were on-par with 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	73	67	NA	NA
6 th cutting harvested	54	47	89	NA
Chiles				
Red harvested.....	70	68	89	82
Corn				
Dented	95	90	NA	NA
Mature	80	75	96	NA
Harvested for grain	41	36	33	57
Harvested for silage	82	75	95	NA
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	79	72	89	NA
Harvested.....	45	41	34	41
Onions				
Planted.....	52	45	77	NA
Emerged	40	35	24	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	55	46	80	85
Pecans				
Harvested.....	35	7	15	11
Winter wheat				
Emerged	93	91	94	NA

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.....	6.7	7.0	6.5	6.5
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	42	17	25
Short.....	40	43	35	35
Adequate.....	23	14	44	37
Surplus.....	2	1	4	3
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	33	41	20	28
Short.....	40	42	42	38
Adequate.....	25	16	36	32
Surplus.....	2	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	NA	NA
Fair.....	38	40	NA	NA
Good.....	59	53	NA	NA
Excellent.....	3	5	NA	NA
Cotton				
Very poor.....	2	11	3	NA
Poor.....	20	18	21	NA
Fair.....	27	28	37	NA
Good.....	19	10	29	NA
Excellent.....	32	33	10	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	8	11	3	13
Poor.....	32	39	19	27
Fair.....	33	35	27	35
Good.....	17	8	36	18
Excellent.....	10	7	15	7
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	3
Poor.....	7	1	3	7
Fair.....	4	2	3	11
Good.....	3	1	37	51
Excellent.....	86	95	56	28
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	4	3	2
Poor.....	18	11	4	20
Fair.....	55	51	39	23
Good.....	17	15	39	32
Excellent.....	10	19	15	23
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	3
Poor.....	6	4	4	8
Fair.....	49	40	30	34
Good.....	32	37	45	37
Excellent.....	11	17	20	18
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	5	3	4
Poor.....	5	10	7	11
Fair.....	34	37	21	34
Good.....	51	42	49	46
Excellent.....	10	6	20	5

NA – not available

(-) – zero