

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 19, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The harvest season continued in full force in New Mexico last week, according to the Mountain Regional Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. With 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork, producers spent the time primarily harvesting. The pecan harvest was progressing slowly, increasing just 3 percent from the previous week, but well ahead of the 5-year average of 16 percent. Peanut harvest, on the other hand, was behind the 5-year average, which is typically complete by this time. The red chile harvest continued at a steady pace, reaching 73 percent last week. At this rate, the harvest will likely finish a couple of weeks behind average. Statewide, nearly all the corn had reached the mature stage, and grain harvest jumped from 41 percent to 60 percent complete. In the cotton fields, 91 percent of bolls had opened, and 50 percent of the crop had been harvested. Cotton progress and condition is comparable to previous years. Looking towards the new crops, winter wheat was tracking closely with the previous year at 97 percent emerged but observed in poorer condition. Growers worked to get the 2024 onion crop on schedule with previous years. Pushing the percent planted from 52 percent the previous week to 75 percent last week.

There were very minimal changes to New Mexico's drought status last week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought-free area, abnormally dry (D0), moderate drought (D1), and severe drought (D2) categories showed no changes from the previous week. Drought-free held at 0.4 percent. The abnormally dry category (D0) was 3 percent, moderate drought (D1) was 12 percent, and severe drought (D2) sat at 41 percent. Extreme drought (D3) rose from 36 percent to 37 percent, and the area in exceptional drought (D4) remained 7 percent. On November 8, the National Weather Service issued an updated drought information statement for New Mexico that remains in effect. The statement included a 12-Week Drought Monitor Class Change that showed drought had worsened for all of New Mexico, with significant worsening in the southwest. No drought improvement was observed during the 12-week monitoring. Some rain is expected this month, but drought conditions are expected to persist into the winter. The State was warm and windy or the first part of the week, but a storm blew in on Thursday, bringing snow to the San Juans, and rain to lower elevations, though not much, according to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. Additional precipitation fell over the weekend as well, accumulating in less than an inch of moisture, primarily in central New Mexico and along the Arizona state line. The High Plains Regional Climate Center reported temperatures fluctuating throughout the week, starting off with highs 5-15 degrees above average, and dropping to 6-8 degrees below average after the storms.

Livestock conditions were observed with minimal changes from the previous week. Cattle and sheep remained in mostly good or fair condition. Strong wind gusts during the week's storms led to an increase in wind damage. The survey reported 1 percent of all crops showed severe wind damage, 1 percent moderate damage, and 2 percent light damage. Hail damage to all crops was 1 percent severe, 2 percent moderate, and 1 percent light. Hay and roughage supplies deteriorated from the previous week, with the adequate category dropping by 9 percent. Hay and roughage supplies were observed to be 30 percent very short, 48 percent short, 21 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. At 23 percent very short, 40 percent short, 36 percent adequate, and 1 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	95	73	NA	NA
6 th cutting harvested	85	54	96	NA
Chiles				
Red harvested.....	73	70	94	86
Corn				
Mature	95	80	NA	NA
Harvested for grain	60	41	48	69
Harvested for silage	89	82	NA	NA
Cotton				
Bolls Opening.....	91	79	95	NA
Harvested.....	50	45	46	57
Onions				
Planted.....	75	52	84	NA
Emerged	52	40	30	NA
Peanuts				
Harvested.....	64	55	84	NA
Pecans				
Harvested.....	38	35	22	16
Winter wheat				
Emerged	97	93	97	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.....	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	35	35	20	25
Short.....	42	40	34	38
Adequate.....	23	23	45	35
Surplus.....	--	2	1	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	36	33	24	29
Short.....	42	40	36	38
Adequate.....	22	25	40	32
Surplus.....	--	2	--	1

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	2	5	NA
Poor.....	20	20	23	NA
Fair.....	21	27	41	NA
Good.....	18	19	27	NA
Excellent.....	41	32	4	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	9	8	3	15
Poor.....	40	32	17	25
Fair.....	39	33	31	38
Good.....	8	17	29	16
Excellent.....	4	10	20	6
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	3
Poor.....	1	7	3	7
Fair.....	5	4	3	12
Good.....	2	3	40	49
Excellent.....	92	86	54	29
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	3
Poor.....	19	18	2	22
Fair.....	55	55	44	26
Good.....	19	17	42	31
Excellent.....	7	10	11	18
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	3
Poor.....	14	6	5	9
Fair.....	40	49	25	34
Good.....	40	32	39	37
Excellent.....	4	11	30	17
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	8	--	--	5
Poor.....	8	5	9	10
Fair.....	34	34	32	40
Good.....	49	51	44	41
Excellent.....	1	10	15	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero