NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE
1050 Stewart St, Room E1200 Las Cruces, NM 88003
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION
MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By the end of February, growers in New Mexico were eyeing for the end of winter, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Work began in some crop fields, in preparation for spring planting, and the 2023 pecan harvest came to a close. Winter wheat conditions were observed to have evened out, with most of the crop now in poor, fair, or good condition. According to reporters, range conditions show signs of having been grazed, as is typical for late winter. The survey noted that several operations in Union County have built pens where cattle are being fed off pasture.

Measurable moisture was recorded throughout New Mexico during the month of February. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, counties across the State accumulated between 0.25 inches and 2 inches of precipitation in February. The Ortero-Lincoln County border measured 2-3 inches of precipitation and the southern half of Catron County saw over 4 inches in some areas. Reporters in the northeast noted a snowstorm early in the month and otherwise wet but warm weather throughout the month. Counties in the southwest and northeast saw above average precipitation during February, while precipitation in the southeast corner of the New Mexico was below normal, despite cooler-than-average temperatures. Average temperatures during February were generally normal except for the southeastern corner of the state where temperatures dipped 1 to 5 degrees below normal, and isolated areas in the northwest that were just above normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for February 20, exceptional drought (D4) had improved since January, dropping from 6 percent last month to 4 percent. The worst of the drought conditions remained in Eddy County and parts of Chaves County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 16 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 29 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 40 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 9 percent. Drought-free conditions were present in 3 percent of the State, up from 1 percent last month. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 25 percent very short, 45 percent short, 28 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, nearly unchanged from 28 percent very short, 45 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 29 percent very short, 37 percent short, 33 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus compared with 21 percent very short, 30 percent short, and 49 percent adequate last month.

The monthly report for March will be released on March 25, 2024.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pecans				
Harvested...	96	75	NA	NA
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved...	12	3	6	NA
Receiving supplemental feed......................	89	88	79	NA
Sheep and Lambs				
Ewes Lambed	5	2	3	NA
Receiving supplemental feed......................	55	63	72	NA

NA – not available
(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short...	41	37	17	NA
Short..	39	43	33	NA
Adequate..	19	20	49	NA
Surplus	1	--	1	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short...	41	37	21	NA
Short..	41	48	42	NA
Adequate..	17	15	36	NA
Surplus	1	--	1	NA

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and Range				
Very poor	28	29	NA	NA
Poor	29	37	NA	NA
Fair	32	22	NA	NA
Good	11	12	NA	NA
Excellent	--	--	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	2	2	1	NA
Poor	34	43	24	NA
Fair	32	25	58	NA
Good	29	25	14	NA
Excellent	3	5	3	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	6	6	1	NA
Poor	20	17	7	NA
Fair	45	48	29	NA
Good	23	14	45	NA
Excellent	6	15	18	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	4	2	7	NA
Poor	14	17	23	NA
Fair	62	52	34	NA
Good	19	19	28	NA
Excellent	1	10	8	NA

NA – not available
(--) – zero