

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With the onset of spring, New Mexico producers generally saw warmer and wetter days in March, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. After a long harvest season, chile producers were back in the fields this month for planting, with progress reaching 10 percent complete by March 24. Calving advanced to 44 percent complete, up from 12 percent from last month. Ewes lambing increased to 36 percent, up from just 5 percent complete last month. Most cattle and sheep were observed to be in fair condition, coming in at 53 percent and 58 percent respectively.

Measurable moisture was recorded throughout New Mexico during the month of March. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, counties across the State accumulated between 0.1 inch and 4 inches of precipitation in March. The Rio Arriba-Sandoval County border measured 3-4 inches of precipitation, with the northern part of Rio Arriba County seeing up to 6 inches in some areas. Counties in the central and northwest parts of the state saw above average precipitation during March, while precipitation in the southeast corner of the New Mexico was below normal, despite cooler-than-average temperatures. In Mora County, reporters said adequate moisture led to better snowpack and higher soil moisture content. However, reporters in Union County said fire danger remained extreme, with spring winds gusting up to 65 miles per hour. Average temperatures during March were generally normal except for the southeast where temperatures dipped 1 to 5 degrees below normal, and isolated areas in the northwest that were 1 to 3 degrees above normal. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 19, exceptional drought (D4) remained unchanged from 3.5 percent last month. The worst of the drought conditions remained in Eddy County and parts of Chaves County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 15 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 25 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 42 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 13 percent. Drought-free conditions were present in 2 percent of the State, down from 3 percent last month.

Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 41 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, nearly unchanged from 25 percent very short, 45 percent short, 28 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last month. Stock water supplies were reported as 43 percent very short, 31 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus compared with 29 percent very short, 37 percent short, and 33 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last month.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 1, 2024.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted	10	NA	3	NA
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved	44	12	40	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	87	89	78	NA
Sheep and Lambs				
Ewes Lambed	36	5	40	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	65	55	72	NA

NA – not available
 (-) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	46	41	23	NA
Short	42	39	40	NA
Adequate	10	19	37	NA
Surplus	2	1	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	44	41	25	NA
Short	41	41	56	NA
Adequate	14	17	19	NA
Surplus	1	1	--	NA

NA – not available
 (-) – zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	35	28	NA	NA
Poor	34	29	NA	NA
Fair.....	23	32	NA	NA
Good	8	11	NA	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	2	2	21	NA
Poor	25	34	23	NA
Fair.....	54	32	46	NA
Good	14	29	4	NA
Excellent.....	5	3	6	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	4	6	1	NA
Poor	22	20	7	NA
Fair.....	53	45	47	NA
Good	14	23	33	NA
Excellent.....	6	6	12	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	3	4	7	NA
Poor	23	14	16	NA
Fair.....	58	62	50	NA
Good	15	19	24	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	3	NA

NA – not available

-- – zero