

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 WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: With March coming to an end last week, New Mexico producers generally saw dryer and cooler days, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Days suitable for fieldwork were reported at 6.2 days. Despite being early in the planting season, chile producers reported significant progress, with planting progress increasing to 30 percent complete by March 31, with emergence reported at 11 percent complete. Calving advanced to 55 percent complete, up from 44 percent from last week. Ewes lambing increased to 48 percent, up from 36 percent complete last week. Most cattle and sheep were observed to be in fair condition, coming in at 49 percent and 54 percent respectively.

Measurable moisture was recorded throughout New Mexico in the last week of March. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, counties across the State accumulated between 0.1 inch and 1.5 inches of precipitation last week. The Taos-Colfax County border measured 0.5-1.0 inches of precipitation, with some parts of Catron County seeing up to 1.5 inches. Most of the state saw below average precipitation last week, with counties in the central and southwestern parts of the state seeing only 5 percent of normal precipitation. Moisture levels in Southeast New Mexico were less than 5 percent of normal, despite cooler-than-average temperatures. Average temperatures during last week were well below normal, especially for the eastern part of the state where temperatures dropped to over 8 degrees below normal, while the rest of the state saw temperatures 3 to 6 degrees below normal. In Union County, reporters said that no precipitation was observed, and fire danger remained extreme. According to reporters, Dona Ana County is currently administering drought payments to livestock operations. According to the United States Drought Monitor for March 26, exceptional drought (D4) remained unchanged at 3.5 percent last week. The worst of the drought conditions remained in Eddy County and parts of Chaves County. Extreme drought (D3) was noted across 13 percent of the State, severe drought (D2) covered 21 percent, moderate drought (D1) covered 40 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 21 percent. Drought-free conditions were present in 2 percent of the State, unchanged from last week.

Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 29 percent very short, 45 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 38 percent very short, 41 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last report. Stock water supplies were reported as 38 percent very short, 40 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus, compared with 43 percent very short, 31 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last report. Cattle and sheep conditions remained relatively unchanged, despite worsening drought conditions, with most of the livestock reported in good or fair condition. Operators in Dona Ana County will likely see improvements in their herds, and more head on feed, as the county is administering drought payments for livestock.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous Report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	30	10	22	16
Emerged.....	11	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved.....	55	44	58	47
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	87	70	81
Sheep and Lambs				
Ewes lambing.....	48	36	51	45
Receiving supplemental feed.....	48	65	71	76

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous Report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.2	NA	6.2	6.5
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil Moisture				
Very short.....	37	46	25	29
Short.....	44	42	43	40
Adequate.....	13	10	31	30
Surplus.....	6	2	1	1
Subsoil Moisture				
Very short.....	35	44	30	37
Short.....	42	41	54	39
Adequate.....	20	14	15	23
Surplus.....	3	1	1	1

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous Report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	1	NA	6	2
Poor	2	NA	11	5
Fair	73	NA	49	47
Good	10	NA	25	43
Excellent	14	NA	9	3
Pasture and Range				
Very Poor	26	35	4	12
Poor	30	34	8	16
Fair	27	23	60	47
Good	17	8	13	21
Excellent	--	--	15	4
Winter wheat				
Very Poor	5	2	21	24
Poor	18	25	22	24
Fair	49	54	44	29
Good	20	14	4	16
Excellent	8	5	9	7
Cattle and Calves				
Very Poor	5	4	1	3
Poor	13	22	4	12
Fair	49	53	38	41
Good	22	14	37	31
Excellent	11	6	20	13
Sheep and Lambs				
Very poor	5	3	5	6
Poor	15	23	15	11
Fair	54	58	45	41
Good	24	15	30	38
Excellent	2	1	5	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero