

# 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 APRIL 7, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** With the first week of April in the books, New Mexico producers once again saw dryer and cooler days, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Chile producers continued to see improvement, as planting progress increased to 33 percent complete by April 7, while emergence increased to 14 percent complete. Calving advanced to 65 percent complete, up from 55 percent from last week. Ewes lambing increased to 51 percent, up from 48 percent last week. Most cattle and sheep were observed to be in fair condition, coming in at 40 percent and 52 percent respectively.

Measurable moisture was recorded throughout New Mexico in the first week of April. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, counties across the State accumulated between 0.01 inch and 1.0 inch of precipitation last week. Parts of Chaves, Eddy, and Lea County measured no precipitation, while southern Union and Harding County saw 1.0-1.5 inches. Most of the state saw below average precipitation last week, with counties in eastern New Mexico seeing only 5 percent of normal precipitation. However, some counties saw precipitation levels well above normal, including San Juan, Union, and Sierra County. Additionally, reporters in Rio Arriba County said runoff from the high mountains was observed. Moisture levels in southeast New Mexico were less than 5 percent of normal, despite cooler-than-average temperatures. Average temperatures throughout the state were well below normal last week. In large parts of eastern New Mexico, 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 despite approximately 1.0 inch of precipitation last week, fire danger remained extreme. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 2, exceptional drought (D4) remained unchanged from last week at 3.5 percent. 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 38 percent, and abnormal dryness (D0) covered 22 percent. Drought-free conditions were present in 2 percent of the State, unchanged from last week.

Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 31 percent very short, 45 percent short, and 24 percent adequate, compared with 29 percent very short, 45 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last report. Stock water supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 39 percent short, 28 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 38 percent very short, 40 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 2 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)
Alfalfa Hay				
1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Chile				
Planted.....	33	30	41	37
Emerged.....	14	11	NA	NA
Corn				
Planted.....	2	NA	NA	NA
Winter Wheat				
Headed.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and Calves				
Cows calved.....	65	55	66	56
Receiving supplemental feed.....	85	72	76	83
Sheep and Lambs				
Ewes lambing.....	51	48	56	54
Receiving supplemental feed.....	64	48	71	74

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	6.3	6.2	6.9	6.8
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil Moisture				
Very short.....	32	37	30	31
Short.....	46	44	44	39
Adequate.....	19	13	25	29
Surplus.....	3	6	1	1
Subsoil Moisture				
Very short.....	35	35	38	37
Short.....	43	42	53	39
Adequate.....	20	20	8	23
Surplus.....	2	3	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)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor .....	1	1	6	3
Poor .....	3	2	11	6
Fair.....	73	73	50	42
Good .....	9	10	24	45
Excellent .....	14	14	9	4
<b>Pasture and Range</b>				
Very Poor.....	26	26	5	12
Poor .....	36	30	13	18
Fair.....	20	27	59	47
Good .....	18	17	13	20
Excellent .....	--	--	10	3
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very Poor.....	9	5	20	23
Poor .....	15	18	30	25
Fair.....	42	49	36	24
Good .....	19	20	6	18
Excellent .....	15	8	8	10
<b>Cattle and Calves</b>				
Very Poor.....	4	5	1	5
Poor .....	18	13	10	14
Fair.....	40	49	34	37
Good .....	22	22	35	31
Excellent .....	16	11	20	13
<b>Sheep and Lambs</b>				
Very poor .....	3	5	5	7
Poor .....	15	15	10	10
Fair.....	52	54	50	41
Good .....	29	24	30	37
Excellent .....	1	2	5	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero