

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004
 Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Longino Bustillos
 (800) 530-8810

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2021

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Despite fairly widespread precipitation during the past week, high winds quickly dried soils leaving little room for improvement in drought conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Alfalfa hay harvest was well underway with one-quarter of the crop baled, but progress remained behind both last year and the average pace. Producers were also baling triticale and wheat with the hope of replenishing extremely low hay supplies. Planting progress for all major row crops was behind normal. Reports from Curry County suggested that producers with irrigation capabilities were heavily watering their wheat to try to ensure at least some portion of the crop was able to be harvested for grain. Statewide, 64 percent of the State's pastures and rangelands were reported in very poor or poor condition, compared with 39 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 35 percent. Comments noted that very little new growth was evident in most pastures. This coupled with soaring supplemental feed costs and diminished supplies continued to force ranchers across the State to heavily cull or completely liquidate herds. During the past week, converted moisture totals – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – ranged from approximately 3 inches in a few isolated areas of the southeast corner of the State to merely a trace, with portions of the northeast remaining dry. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 27, moderate drought or worse continued its hold on the State. Less than 1 percent of the State was categorized in moderate drought (D1). Severe drought (D2) declined to cover 18.4 percent of the State. Extreme (D3) worsened as dry weather lingered and was now present across 27.8 percent of New Mexico's land. Exceptional (D4) drought remained across 53.2 percent, down slightly from a week ago. Exceptional drought plagued approximately 64,625 square miles of land, while extreme drought was present across roughly 33,760 square miles. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 94 percent short to very short, compared with 64 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 67 percent. Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 3 percent light. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 2 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 18 percent light, 10 percent moderate, and 2 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 55 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 16 percent adequate, compared with 12 percent very short, 40 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 45 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 24 percent adequate, compared with 10 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 64 percent adequate last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| 1 st cutting harvested | 25 | 15 | 34 | 32 |
| Chile | | | | |
| Planted | 73 | 54 | 81 | 80 |
| Emerg'd | 38 | 26 | 38 | 47 |
| Corn | | | | |
| Planted | 28 | 18 | 37 | 34 |
| Emerg'd | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Cotton | | | | |
| Planted | 23 | 15 | 36 | 39 |
| Emerg'd | 6 | NA | 10 | 12 |
| Onions | | | | |
| Planted | 85 | 60 | 79 | 90 |
| Emerg'd | 58 | 51 | 67 | 78 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Headed | 38 | 24 | 61 | 60 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Cows calved | 88 | 85 | 79 | 86 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 95 | 91 | 77 | 74 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Ewes lambed | 88 | 85 | 81 | 87 |
| Receiving supplemental feed | 92 | 90 | 62 | 64 |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

| | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for fieldwork | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.5 |
| Topsoil moisture | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short | 63 | 57 | 31 | 24 |
| Short | 31 | 32 | 33 | 43 |
| Adequate | 5 | 10 | 36 | 32 |
| Surplus | 1 | 1 | -- | 1 |
| Subsoil moisture | | | | |
| Very short | 66 | 60 | 33 | 22 |
| Short | 29 | 32 | 34 | 40 |
| Adequate | 4 | 7 | 33 | 38 |
| Surplus | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

| Commodity | Current week (percent) | Previous week (percent) | Previous year (percent) | 5-year average (percent) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa hay | | | | |
| Very poor | 10 | 7 | -- | 1 |
| Poor | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Fair..... | 45 | 53 | 36 | 40 |
| Good..... | 34 | 30 | 57 | 48 |
| Excellent | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Onions | | | | |
| Very poor | -- | NA | -- | -- |
| Poor | -- | NA | -- | -- |
| Fair..... | -- | NA | 30 | 13 |
| Good..... | 27 | NA | 50 | 52 |
| Excellent | 73 | NA | 20 | 35 |
| Pasture and range | | | | |
| Very poor | 31 | 27 | 20 | 10 |
| Poor | 33 | 30 | 19 | 25 |
| Fair..... | 31 | 36 | 41 | 42 |
| Good..... | 5 | 7 | 19 | 21 |
| Excellent | -- | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Winter wheat | | | | |
| Very poor | 35 | 43 | -- | 6 |
| Poor | 25 | 19 | 4 | 20 |
| Fair..... | 17 | 15 | 56 | 35 |
| Good..... | 13 | 10 | 26 | 32 |
| Excellent | 10 | 13 | 14 | 7 |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| Very poor | 11 | 8 | 11 | 4 |
| Poor | 20 | 15 | 4 | 9 |
| Fair..... | 39 | 34 | 26 | 39 |
| Good..... | 23 | 28 | 49 | 42 |
| Excellent | 7 | 15 | 10 | 6 |
| Sheep and lambs | | | | |
| Very poor | 21 | 18 | 16 | 10 |
| Poor | 7 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Fair..... | 28 | 27 | 22 | 32 |
| Good..... | 36 | 38 | 50 | 48 |
| Excellent | 8 | 10 | 2 | 1 |

NA – not available

(--)- zero