

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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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 2022

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: As meaningful moisture continued to elude the State, high winds and dry soils allowed for blowing dirt and poor visibility in many counties, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures well above average coupled with the unusually dry conditions resulted in extreme wildfire danger, with several fires already burning across the State. The largest fire complex, the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak Fire, covers approximately 56,500 acres with roughly 12 percent containment. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 86 percent very short to short, compared with 89 percent last year and a 5-year average of 71 percent. Additionally, 81 percent of the pastures and ranges were reported in fair condition or worse. Supplemental feeding needs remained high. Hay and roughage supplies continued to dwindle despite growers actively harvesting the 2022 alfalfa hay crop. At 9 percent complete, the first cutting of alfalfa hay was about 3 days behind progress from last year. Comments from San Juan County noted varying conditions across the area, with the western half of the county drier and more wind scoured. Production across the western half of the county has been very low, and visually, cattle and sheep were thin. In Union County, ranchers continued to rotate cattle between pastures and wheat fields in order to provide some forage to their herds. Additional comments from the county indicated that corn planting was slow due to below average moisture, with many fields having not yet been tilled in preparation for planting. Ungrazed, irrigated wheat was approximately 6-10 inches tall. With 82 percent of the winter wheat crop in very poor or poor condition Statewide, head development, at 5 percent complete, was roughly 9 days behind progress from last year. Converted moisture – accounting for any precipitation received as snow – totaled approximately 0.1 inch in extremely isolated portions of Rio Arriba and Taos Counties, while the remainder of the State was dry. Since January 1, Statewide precipitation has totaled roughly 2.5 inches, or 50 percent of normal or less, with most southern counties receiving moisture totaling 25 percent or less than average. According to the United States Drought Monitor for April 19, the spread of exceptional drought (D4) had leveled off, covering 7.2 percent of the State. Extreme drought (D3) expanded further during the week, now accounting for 56.2 percent of New Mexico, up 11.3 percentage points from last week. With the spread of extreme drought, the area affected by severe drought (D2) decreased, now present across 30.0 percent of New Mexico, while moderate drought (D1) was stable across 5.6 percent of the State. Another 1.1 percent of the State was abnormally dry (D0). Freeze damage in all crops was reported as 4 percent light. Hail damage in all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage in all crops was reported as 22 percent light, 14 percent moderate, and 3 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 23 percent very short, 22 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 48 percent very short, 33 percent short, and 19 percent adequate last year. Stock water supplies were reported as 32 percent very short, 22 percent short, and 46 percent adequate, compared with 38 percent very short, 35 percent short, 26 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus 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	9	4	14	18
Chile				
Planted	82	75	53	64
Emerged	42	23	24	29
Corn				
Planted	21	13	17	23
Cotton				
Planted	26	14	14	24
Emerged	2	--	NA	NA
Onions				
Planted	55	40	59	76
Emerged	35	25	49	62
Winter wheat				
Headed	5	3	22	35
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved	76	66	84	79
Receiving supplemental feed.....	87	79	91	80
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambled	90	85	84	78
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	55	90	75

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.....	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	43	38	57	33
Short.....	43	42	32	38
Adequate.....	14	20	10	28
Surplus.....	--	--	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	44	38	60	30
Short.....	41	42	32	41
Adequate.....	15	20	7	29
Surplus.....	--	--	1	--

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	2	2	7	2
Poor.....	4	2	3	5
Fair.....	15	10	53	45
Good.....	77	86	30	43
Excellent.....	2	--	7	5
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	12	5	27	12
Poor.....	27	23	30	25
Fair.....	42	47	36	44
Good.....	18	24	7	18
Excellent.....	1	1	--	1
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	40	35	43	13
Poor.....	42	35	19	23
Fair.....	6	15	15	30
Good.....	5	5	10	23
Excellent.....	7	10	13	11
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	2	2	8	5
Poor.....	13	13	15	8
Fair.....	38	38	34	43
Good.....	34	31	28	37
Excellent.....	13	16	15	7
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	--	--	18	9
Poor.....	5	2	7	9
Fair.....	26	26	27	36
Good.....	53	50	38	42
Excellent.....	16	22	10	4

NA – not available

(--) – zero