

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Measurable moisture continued to be spotty across the State, with a few isolated locations accumulating approximately 1 inch of rainfall, while most other areas were either dry or totaled just a trace, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Temperatures during the past week remained above average, with triple-digit heat noted in portions of the southeast. Where conditions allowed, producers were busy harvesting various cuttings of alfalfa hay, as well as corn silage and green chile. The cotton crop was developing quickly, with boll set virtually complete, about 3 weeks ahead of last year's pace, while bolls were opening across 16 percent of the crop. In contrast, corn was behind normal across all stages of development, most likely a result of a slower planting pace during the spring coupled with below average moisture throughout the growing season. Wheat producers were seeding the 2021 crop, although reports from Union County noted that additional water was needed to prompt emergence. Statewide, poor pasture conditions left many ranchers weighing a decision to sell a larger than normal percentage of their herd due to a lack of feedstuffs against depressed market prices. The United States Drought Monitor released on September 3 indicated that extreme drought (D3) spread further to cover 29.3 percent of the State, an increase of 7.4 percentage points from last week. Comparatively, July 31, 2018, was the last report of an area this large being impacted by extreme drought, when 30.5 percent of the State was in the D3 category. With the expansion of extreme drought, the area classified in severe drought (D2) was reduced to 36.0 percent, a difference of 4.3 percentage points from last week. Moderate drought (D1) covered 29.4 percent of the State, while abnormal dryness (D0) still plagued 5.3 percent of the State. Topsoil moisture levels were reported as 95 percent short to very short, compared with 91 percent last week, 74 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 53 percent. Pasture and range condition was reported as 57 percent poor to very poor, compared with 55 percent last week, 46 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 29 percent. Pecan nut set was reported as 4 percent light, 80 percent moderate, and 15 percent heavy, compared with 9 percent light, 75 percent moderate, and 15 percent heavy last year. Hail damage across all crops was reported as 1 percent light. Wind damage across all crops was reported as 5 percent light, 4 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 18 percent very short, 44 percent short, and 38 percent adequate, compared with 15 percent very short, 44 percent short, 40 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 26 percent very short, 46 percent short, and 28 percent adequate, compared with 26 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 33 percent adequate last week.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	88	80	94	NA
4 th cutting harvested	73	62	86	85
5 th cutting harvested	18	12	37	43
Chile				
Green harvested.....	60	53	58	66
Corn				
Silked	89	83	93	NA
Doughed	72	62	54	72
Dented	48	37	35	38
Mature	14	10	NA	NA
Harvested for silage.....	31	9	33	41
Cotton				
Setting bolls.....	95	92	66	84
Bolls opening	16	11	14	25
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	14	6	28	21
Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA
Cattle and calves				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	72	74	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Receiving supplemental feed.....	79	66	NA	NA

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	6.5	6.7	6.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	42	39	25	14
Short.....	53	52	49	39
Adequate	5	9	25	43
Surplus	--	--	1	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	41	46	25	18
Short.....	52	46	50	35
Adequate	7	8	25	45
Surplus	--	--	--	2

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	--	4
Poor	3	4	3	8
Fair.....	30	34	24	25
Good.....	52	50	58	49
Excellent.....	13	10	15	14
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	1	3	2
Poor	1	1	8	4
Fair.....	42	40	45	29
Good.....	25	28	30	46
Excellent.....	31	30	14	19
Cotton				
Very poor.....	5	5	2	2
Poor	21	21	20	12
Fair.....	55	54	43	32
Good.....	16	15	24	45
Excellent.....	3	5	11	9
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	19	20	18	8
Poor	38	35	28	21
Fair.....	31	32	29	37
Good.....	8	8	20	28
Excellent.....	4	5	5	6
Peanuts				
Very poor.....	5	5	--	--
Poor	20	20	9	6
Fair.....	33	33	65	64
Good.....	42	42	26	29
Excellent.....	--	--	--	1
Pecans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	--
Poor	1	1	--	--
Fair.....	28	27	2	6
Good.....	71	72	45	66
Excellent.....	--	--	53	28
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	9	11	1	1
Poor	9	7	14	6
Fair.....	44	44	50	36
Good.....	30	30	22	47
Excellent.....	8	8	13	10
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	13	15	4	8
Poor	10	11	8	9
Fair.....	22	25	36	25
Good.....	50	46	42	53
Excellent.....	5	3	10	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero