



# Weekly Ag Update

nass-nm@nass.usda.gov

1-800-530-8810

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## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - FEBRUARY 21, 2006

Weather Summary      Milk Production      Farm Labor      Wheat Outlook

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## WEATHER SUMMARY

A winter storm moving across Colorado brushed New Mexico Friday, leaving some snow in the higher elevations of the north. Chama (0.38") reported the greatest precipitation total from the storm. Otherwise, it was another dry week for the vast majority of New Mexico, with breezy to windy afternoons and unseasonably-low humidity. Temperatures for the week were generally normal to a few degrees below normal in the east, and a little above normal in the west.

### NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 13 - 19, 2006

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	02/13 02/19	02/01 02/19	Normal Feb	01/01 02/19	Normal Jan-Feb
Farmington	38.1	62	15	0.00	0.01	0.57	0.40	1.16
Gallup	35.9	58	10	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.38	1.54
Capulin	29.1	62	2	0.00	0.21	0.56	0.36	0.96
Chama	29.1	52	5	0.38	0.38	1.58	1.08	3.35
Johnson Ranch	31.5	60	5	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.06	1.24
Las Vegas	33.2	66	13	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.03	1.08
Los Alamos	33.2	57	15	0.01	0.02	0.80	0.17	1.66
Raton	29.9	63	4	0.01	0.07	0.54	0.22	1.01
Red River	27.9	46	4	0.05	0.35	1.22	0.78	2.29
Santa Fe	35.1	63	14	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.04	1.32
Clayton	33.2	68	-3	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.06	0.55
Clovis	38.5	72	12	0.00	0.03	0.51	0.03	0.90
Roy	32.8	65	2	0.00	0.01	0.43	0.06	0.77
Tucumcari	40.4	75	7	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.07	0.73
Grants	36.3	63	6	0.00	0.02	0.51	0.20	1.00
Quemado	38.4	60	5	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.66	1.55
Albuquerque	42.6	67	21	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.04	0.90
Carrizozo	43.9	63	11	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	1.17
Socorro	46.8	72	11	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.02	0.78
Gran Quivera	40.7	60	19	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	1.52
Moriarty	35.3	63	4	0.03	0.04	0.48	0.04	0.91
Ruidoso	40.4	58	14	0.04	0.04	1.16	0.25	2.28
Carlsbad	46.1	78	18	0.00	0.01	0.35	0.01	0.70
Roswell	41.4	77	15	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.89
Tatum	38.4	73	13	0.01	0.01	0.50	0.01	0.89
Alamogordo	52.1	68	33	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	1.21
Animas	55.2	72	29	0.02	0.02	0.51	0.22	1.19
Deming	51.6	71	23	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.35	1.02
Las Cruces	51.6	73	24	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.02	0.83
T or C	50.4	69	25	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.06	0.84

(T) Trace (-) No Report (\*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

## MILK PRODUCTION

**NEW MEXICO:** Milk production in New Mexico during January totaled 631 million pounds, up 4.6 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from the same time last year. Milk per cow for the month averaged 1,845 pounds, an increase of 65 pounds from the December average of 1,780 pounds. Number of milk cows on farms was up by 3,000 head from 339,000 in December to 342,000 in January 2006. New Mexico remains 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in total milk production.

**UNITED STATES:** Milk production in the 23 major States during January totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 5.4 percent from January 2005. December production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 4.1 percent from December 2004. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,711 pounds for January, 68 pounds above January 2005. The number of cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.19 million head, 103,000 head more than January 2005, and 11,000 head more than December 2005.

**Milk Cows and Production: December 2005<sup>1/</sup> and January 2005-2006**

State	Milk Cows <sup>2/</sup>			Milk per Cow <sup>3/</sup>			Milk Production <sup>3/</sup>		
	1/05	12/05	1/06	1/05	12/05	1/06	1/05	12/05	1/06
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	165	163	165	1,975	1,965	2,060	326	320	340
CA	1,739	1,771	1,772	1,770	1,795	1,825	3,078	3,179	3,234
CO	100	105	105	1,860	1,890	1,885	186	198	198
FL	138	135	134	1,520	1,360	1,515	210	184	203
ID	436	472	473	1,830	1,830	1,860	798	864	880
IL	105	104	104	1,620	1,570	1,630	170	163	170
IN	155	158	161	1,640	1,715	1,720	254	271	277
IA	190	200	200	1,750	1,725	1,765	333	345	353
KS	109	111	111	1,730	1,730	1,780	189	192	198
KY	110	102	101	1,090	1,110	1,160	120	113	117
MI	306	312	313	1,785	1,820	1,875	546	568	587
MN	460	445	445	1,510	1,545	1,605	695	688	714
MO	118	114	114	1,330	1,380	1,440	157	157	164
<b>NM</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>631</b>
NY	650	650	651	1,535	1,545	1,595	998	1,004	1,038
OH	267	273	273	1,460	1,430	1,460	390	390	399
OR	120	121	121	1,570	1,490	1,510	188	180	183
PA	564	557	557	1,540	1,580	1,650	869	880	919
TX	318	324	325	1,655	1,720	1,845	526	557	600
VT	143	143	143	1,560	1,535	1,580	223	220	226
VA	105	104	103	1,465	1,440	1,495	154	150	154
WA	235	237	237	1,960	1,910	1,945	461	453	461
WI	1,235	1,239	1,240	1,515	1,550	1,585	1,871	1,920	1,965
<b>23 STS</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,179</b>	<b>8,190</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>13,287</b>	<b>13,599</b>	<b>14,011</b>

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## WHEAT OUTLOOK

Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
February 13, 2006

**The 2006 Southern Plains Wheat Crop Stressed:** The crop conditions for the 2006 winter wheat crop in Texas and Oklahoma have deteriorated sharply from the fall of 2005. The current crop ratings in Texas are the worst since the conditions reporting began in 1986.

No changes were made to projected U.S. 2005/06 wheat imports, domestic use, exports, or ending stocks. No changes are made to projections of wheat by class. The projected 2005/06 price range is \$3.35 to \$3.45 per bushel, up 10 cents on the lower end and down 5 cents on the upper end from last month.

This month a small reduction in projected 2005/06 supplies combined with a modest increase in forecast use to reduce world wheat ending stocks 3 million tons to 142 million. Global ending stocks are projected to be 5 percent less than beginning stocks with the largest year-to-year reductions for the EU-25, China, and India; but with increasing stocks in two crucial exporting countries, Australia and Canada.

**2006 Winter Wheat Crop Conditions Have Deteriorated From Last Fall With the Drought in the Plains States:** In the final *Crop Progress* report of 2005, for the week ending November 28, 2005, 94 percent of the winter wheat crop had emerged, nearly the same as last year at this time and the 5-year average of 92 percent. Fifty-two percent of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent. This rating is much less than last year's 76 percent. The previous year's good to excellent rating was the best rating for the crop since reports were first made in 1986. Fifty-three percent of the 2006 crop rated poor to very poor. The previous year's crop had only 4 percent rated poor to very poor. Of the major States, only in Texas were conditions rated as unusually poor. In Texas, 49 percent of the crop was rated poor to very poor.

Current crop conditions for winter wheat in the spring of 2006 are not as good as the year before. At the beginning of February 5, 2006, 52 percent of the crop in Kansas was rated good to excellent and 13 percent rated poor to very poor. A similar pattern exists for Nebraska with 52 percent of the crop rated good to excellent and 7 percent rated poor to very poor. However, the situation in the Southern Plains is quite different than the Central Plains because of the lack of moisture. In Oklahoma, 10 percent of the crop is rated good to excellent and 58 percent is rated 2 poor to very poor. The Texas situation is worse. Only 1 percent of the Texas crop is rated good to excellent, while 89 percent of the crop is rated poor to very poor, the worst rating for Texas since the ratings system began more than 20 years ago.

A year ago at this time, the ratings by State were: Kansas, 74 percent good to excellent and 6 percent poor to very poor; Nebraska, 56 percent good to excellent and 5 percent poor to very poor; Oklahoma, 70 percent good to excellent and 8 percent poor to very poor; Texas, 63 percent good to excellent and 8 percent poor to very poor.

It is important to note that there is not a strong correlation between crop conditions at this time of the year and final yields. However, timely rains will be needed this year to produce a good grain crop in some areas.

**Small Changes Trim World Wheat Supplies for 2005/06:** Global beginning stocks for 2005/06 were reduced 0.5 million tons this month because of small revisions to estimated 2004/05 supply and use in several countries. Beginning stocks were reduced by less than 0.2 million tons but were 0.1 million or more for: Argentina, Thailand, Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan. With the 2005/06 wheat harvest finished throughout the world, revisions to production were minor, with a 0.3-million-ton decline to 18.7 million for Ukraine being the largest change. Other production revisions were smaller and offsetting. While small, changes to beginning stocks and production reduced 2005/06 supply nearly 1 million tons this month.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

**NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA:** There were 21,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of January 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 2006, down 16 percent from October. Average hours worked increased to 46.9 hours, up 4.7 percent from October and 3.8 percent above January 2005. Field worker wage rates increased 32 cents from last January to \$8.02 per hour, while livestock workers rose 71 cents to \$9.12 per hour. Overall, wage rates for all hired agricultural workers improved to \$9.35 an hour, up 74 cents compared to this time last year.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,  
 Selected Regions and U.S., January 05-06 <sup>1/</sup>

	Mountain II <sup>2/</sup>			Mountain III <sup>3/</sup>			Southern Plains <sup>4/</sup>			United States <sup>5/</sup>		
	Jan 9-15 2005	Oct 9-15 2005	Jan 8-14 2006	Jan 9-15 2005	Oct 9-15 2005	Jan 8-14 2006	Jan 9-15 2005	Oct 9-15 2005	Jan 8-14 2006	Jan 9-15 2005	Oct 9-15 2005	Jan 8-14 2006
	-----Thousands-----											
<b>Workers on Farms</b>												
All Hired Workers	17	22	22	19	25	21	50	64	43	589	*842	616
	-----Hours Per Week-----											
<b>Hours Worked</b>												
All Hired Workers	43.4	45.9	43.2	45.2	44.8	46.9	37.0	39.1	39.2	37.0	42.0	38.2
	-----Dollars Per Hours-----											
<b>Wages By Work Type</b>												
Field	7.37	7.94	8.12	7.70	7.27	8.02	8.01	7.60	7.53	8.71	8.90	9.15
Livestock	9.65	8.39	8.64	8.41	8.87	9.12	9.35	7.84	8.74	9.20	*9.15	9.25
Field & Livestock	8.83	8.14	8.42	8.02	7.67	8.40	8.75	7.68	8.17	8.90	8.96	9.19
All Workers	9.93	8.75	9.32	8.61	8.28	9.35	9.56	8.38	8.89	9.78	9.61	10.11

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers. <sup>2/</sup> Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. <sup>3/</sup> Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. <sup>4/</sup> Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. <sup>5/</sup> Excludes AK. \*Revised.