



Weekly Ag Update

USDA/NASS
New Mexico Field Office

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Weather Summary

Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm , or by e-mail (1-800-530-8810 for information)

WEATHER SUMMARY

A fast-moving winter storm passed through New Mexico Friday and early Saturday, mainly bringing anywhere from an inch to a foot of snow over the northern and central mountains. Greatest water equivalent from the storm was 0.42 inches at Red River, where 8 inches of snow fell. Temperatures for the week were especially cold over the region that received some of the heaviest snowfall from the late December storm, with Moriarty, Star Lake, Albuquerque and Grants all around 10 degrees below normal. Temperatures were closer to normal elsewhere. Extremes for the week ranged from 70 at Carlsbad and Roswell to -8 at Red River and Chama.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - January 1 - 7, 2007

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	01/01 01/07	01/01 01/07	01/01 01/07	Normal Jan-Jan	Normal Jan
Farmington	28.1	47	13	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.59	0.59
Gallup	27.7	52	3	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.80	0.80
Capulin	21.9	51	-4	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.40	0.40
Chama	23.0	48	-8	0.22	0.22	0.22	1.77	1.77
Johnson Ranch	19.5	50	-4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.67
Las Vegas	27.9	54	10	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.60	0.60
Los Alamos	27.2	42	13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.86
Raton	25.8	61	3	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.47	0.47
Red River	18.2	44	-8	0.42	0.42	0.42	1.07	1.07
Santa Fe	23.2	47	2	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.63	0.63
Clayton	31.2	54	14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.24
Clovis	37.7	67	17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.39
Roy	25.3	45	8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.34
Tucumcari	32.4	54	8	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.28	0.28
Grants	19.9	49	-5	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.49	0.49
Quemado	32.5	55	13	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.83	0.83
Albuquerque	25.6	41	5	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.44	0.44
Carrizozo	35.6	58	15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.60
Socorro	30.9	58	12	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.39	0.39
Gran Quivera	32.5	52	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.70
Moriarty	17.9	46	-6	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.43	0.43
Ruidoso	33.9	59	10	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.12	1.12
Carlsbad	42.0	70	24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.35
Roswell	37.0	70	18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.43
Tatum	37.5	66	18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.39
Alamogordo	41.4	61	28	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.67	0.67
Animas	42.1	62	23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.68
Deming	41.4	61	21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.56
Las Cruces	40.7	68	24	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.46	0.46
T or C	38.6	60	21	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.46	0.46

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

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

VEGETABLES OUTLOOK
USDA, ERS, December 14, 2006

In the 2006/07 crop year, production of all dry beans is expected to decline 11 percent. Consequently, the season-average dry bean price is projected to rise to a range of \$20 to \$22 per hundredweight (cwt)—up from \$18.50/cwt last season but below the 2004/05 season average of \$25.70/cwt.

Fresh-market tomato shipping-point prices averaged 51 percent above a year earlier during the summer quarter and remained strong until tomato supplies began to build throughout October. Although tomato prices averaged 52.3 cents per pound in October, they declined to a more seasonal 31.1 cents in November. The November shipping-point price was 15 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since July.

Average potato prices during 2006 have been running 8 to 9 percent higher than a year earlier. Fresh-market potato prices are up 10 percent while processing prices are up 6 percent. These higher prices, if sustained through the marketing year, will push average per-acre farm potato sales to a record \$2,700 (or more) for the 2006 crop, up 8 percent from a year earlier.

The production value of horticulture crops—fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, melons, greenhouse, and nursery—is forecast to grow at an average 2.5-percent pace from 2007 to 2016. From \$50 billion in 2006, the value of these crops is projected to reach about \$64 billion in 2016, of which \$20 billion will consist of vegetables and melons.

Fresh vegetables: During the first 10 months of 2006, the value of fresh-market vegetable imports (excluding potatoes, melons, and mushrooms) jumped 16 percent to \$3.1 billion. A portion of this increase was spurred by higher prices resulting from the impact of extreme summer heat. This winter, with an El Niño weather pattern in place, vegetable production could be slowed by cool, wet weather in the desert southwest, affecting crops such as lettuce, broccoli, and carrots.

Melons: The value of fresh-market melon imports increased 14 percent during the January-October period to \$296 million due largely to an 11 percent increase in import volume. Most of this gain in volume came from a 25-percent surge in watermelon imports, which have already exceeded their 2005 record high. The majority of watermelon imports entered from Mexico during April and May. Reflecting year-round demand and new seedless varieties, imports are expected to account for nearly one-fifth of domestic watermelon consumption in 2006—double that of a decade ago.

Processing vegetables: During the first 10 months of 2006, the value of processed vegetable imports (canned, frozen, dehydrated) rose 10 percent to \$1.4 billion. Canned vegetable imports increased 8 percent to \$706 million, while frozen imports (excluding potatoes) rose 7 percent to \$428 million. Dehydrated imports rose 19 percent to \$275 million led by garlic (up 37 percent)—most coming from China.

Potatoes: With strong potato prices over the past year providing an incentive for importers, U.S. potato and potato product import value increased 9 percent during January-October. Fresh (including seed) imports jumped 38 percent while frozen imports rose 10 percent to \$474 million. About 85 percent of all potato and potato product imports enter the U.S. market from Canada.

Dry edible beans: With a smaller crop in 2006 and higher prices, imports of dry edible beans are expected to increase over the next several months. During January-October 2006, the value of dry bean imports was unchanged at \$68 million. Canada, Mexico, and China remain the top 3 foreign sources for dry beans.