

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE**

Crop Weather    September Crop Production    ERS

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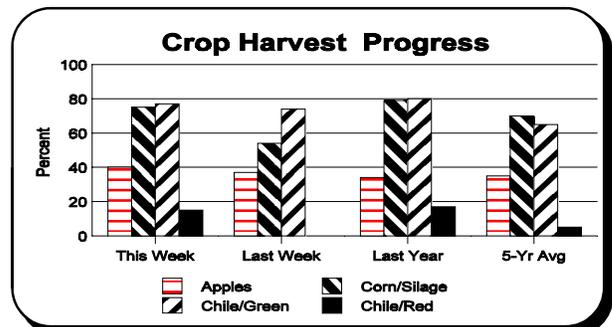
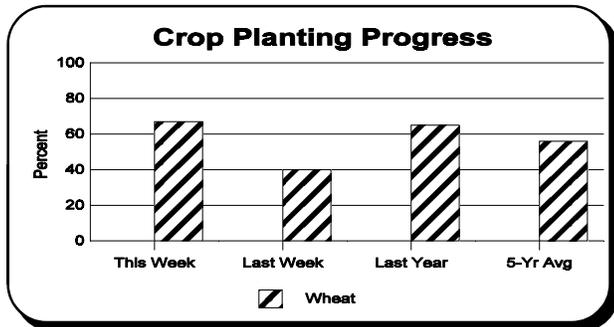
**CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 2002**

**NEW MEXICO:** There were 5.1 days suitable for field work. Farmers were busy cutting hay and silage, planting wheat, and harvesting vegetables when conditions permitted. Corn was in mostly fair to good condition, with denting complete and 60% of the crop mature. 75% of the corn silage was harvested. Cotton was also reported in mostly fair to good condition, with bolls opening at 61%. Irrigated sorghum was still in fair to good condition, with 73% of the crop coloring and 7% mature. Dryland sorghum coloring progressed to 50%, but the crop remained in very poor to fair condition. Pecans were in fair to excellent condition, with drop listed as 41% below average and 59% average. Green chile was 77% harvested, red was 15%, and the apple harvest was 40% finished. Wheat was 67% planted and lettuce planting was 95% complete. Alfalfa was reported as 19% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 31% good, and 4% excellent, with 81% of the 5<sup>th</sup> cutting and 33% of the 6<sup>th</sup> complete. Cattle were listed as 7% very poor, 21% poor, 46% fair, and 26% good. Sheep were 2% very poor, 24% poor, 47% fair, and 27% good. Ranchers are still culling their stock and supplementing feed where necessary. Range conditions improved with the help of this week's rainfall, and were listed as 28% very poor, 36% poor, 27% fair, and 9% good.

**CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS**

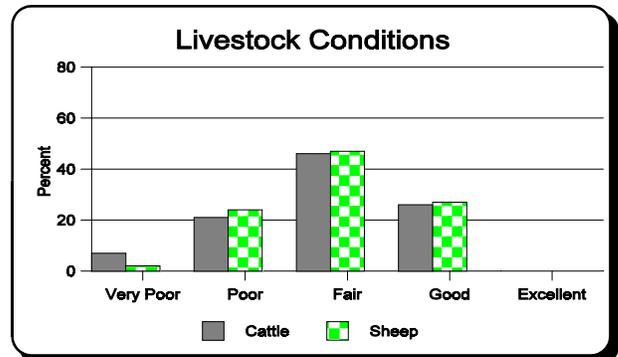
CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
<b>APPLES</b>	Harvested	40	37	34	35
<b>CHILE</b>	Harvested-Green	77	74	80	65
	Harvested-Red	15	N/A	17	5
<b>CORN</b>	Mature	60	41	62	45
	Harvested-Silage	75	54	79	70
<b>COTTON</b>	Bolls Opening	61	59	69	60
<b>SORGHUM (ALL)</b>	Coloring	59	31	63	59

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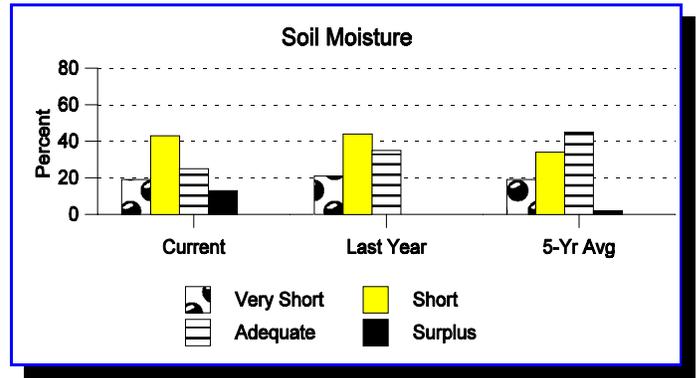
**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES**

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	19	11	35	31	4
Apples	16	55	22	7	--
Chile	--	--	13	58	29
Corn	--	4	27	65	4
Cotton	4	4	25	61	6
Lettuce	--	--	15	43	42
Peanuts	--	--	40	60	--
Pecans	--	--	38	46	16
Sorghum (All)	24	19	39	18	--
Wheat (All)	--	4	42	54	--
Cattle	7	21	46	26	--
Sheep	2	24	47	27	--



**SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	23	67	10	--
Northeast	21	35	32	12
Southwest	14	53	--	33
Southeast	22	28	50	--
State	19	43	25	13
State-Last Year	21	44	35	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	19	34	45	2



**WEATHER SUMMARY**

A stationary low pressure system over Arizona helped pump abundant moisture into New Mexico from the tropics and combined with a cold front to produce the most significant rain event of the year for a good portion of the state. Besides the hefty totals reported at various stations, radar estimates showed amounts of 2-4 inches over portions of the northeast plains as well as the mountains of the west and southwest

**NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS SEPTEMBER 9 -15, 2002**

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	09/09 09/15	09/01 09/15	Normal Sept	01/01 09/15	Normal Jan-Sept
Carlsbad	74.4	90	60	0.92	0.92	2.75	8.96	10.74
Hobbs	70.7	86	58	1.00	1.00	2.36	12.61	13.53
Roswell	72.9	89	60	1.23	1.23	1.87	10.11	10.64
Clayton	64.4	82	52	2.94	3.10	1.77	6.21	13.38
Clovis	67.9	84	51	0.79	0.79	2.16	10.26	14.90
Roy	61.6	83	51	2.81	2.81	1.90	13.51	13.74
Tucumcari	67.8	89	54	2.75	2.76	1.47	11.28	12.45
Chama	53.4	81	32	1.23	1.24	2.23	6.74	16.13
Johnson Ranch	59.0	76	38	1.06	1.33	1.33	5.57	9.05
Capulin	57.8	78	38	0.19	0.38	2.22	8.39	15.30
Las Vegas	59.7	78	43	1.84	2.34	2.07	7.55	14.85
Los Alamos	56.9	70	43	1.31	1.81	2.12	7.57	15.30
Raton	59.2	78	39	1.38	2.06	1.61	7.94	14.64
Santa Fe	61.1	82	41	1.51	1.84	1.51	6.51	11.54
Red River	50.7	69	29	1.30	1.38	1.66	10.95	16.69
Farmington	64.8	79	48	1.21	2.42	0.97	3.58	6.33
Gallup	59.5	75	41	1.39	1.84	1.31	7.44	9.67
Grants	60.1	73	44	3.02	3.61	1.56	6.87	8.51
Silver City	64.0	76	45	2.62	3.52	2.22	6.24	12.86
Quemado	56.9	73	37	2.78	3.81	1.73	11.33	11.41
Albuquerque	66.6	82	54	1.16	1.18	1.00	4.64	7.06
Carrizozo	67.6	86	49	1.41	1.41	1.88	8.42	10.12
Gran Quivera	61.7	79	47	1.75	1.85	1.95	8.32	12.74
Moriarty	61.9	82	42	0.12	0.31	1.61	4.68	10.67
Ruidoso	59.1	74	45	1.49	2.12	2.50	12.88	17.53
Socorro	66.9	82	50	2.50	2.52	1.53	7.70	7.37
Alamogordo	74.6	93	57	1.75	1.75	1.99	5.41	9.91
Animas	73.4	88	58	0.51	0.69	1.68	3.77	8.76
Deming	74.1	88	55	0.12	0.69	1.63	6.06	8.11
T or C	68.8	84	55	2.21	2.26	1.08	5.02	7.67
Las Cruces	76.4	91	59	0.32	0.32	1.36	4.66	7.28

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

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

## SEPTEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

**NEW MEXICO:** Corn for grain production forecast for September remained at 6.8 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. Harvested acreage at 38,000 acres was 8,000 acres below last year, while yields are expected to average 180 bushels per acre, the same as 2001. Upland cotton producers expect to harvest 100,000 bales down 5,000 bales from last months forecast. Harvested acreage remained at 56,000 acres 9,000 less than a year ago, however yields are expected to average 869 pounds per acre. American-Pima harvested acreage totaled 7,000 acres, 1,800 acres above last year. Yields are anticipated to reach 900 pounds per acre, just below the record yield set last year at 969 pounds per acre. Sorghum production is forecast at 2.6 million bushels, down from last months forecast of 3 million. Based on September 1 conditions, the sorghum yield is forecasted at 35 bushels per acre. Peanut production is estimated at 57.5 million pounds the same as last month which is 14 percent below 2001. Growers expect to harvest 23,000 acres, with yields expected to average 2,500 pounds per acre. Production of summer potatoes is forecast at 900,000 hundredweight well above last years 770,000 hundredweight. Harvested acreage increased to 2,500 acres, 300 acres above last year, while the average yield is expected at 360 hundredweight per acre.

**UNITED STATES:** Corn for grain acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 70.5 million acres, down 460,000 acres from August but up 3 percent from 2001. All cotton production is forecast at 18.1 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from last month and 11 percent below last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 675 pounds per acre, the same as last month. Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 12.7 million acres, is down 2 percent from August and 7 percent less than 2001. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 241,400 acres, is down 22,000 acres from last month. Sorghum production is forecast at 384 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month but down 25 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 51.0 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from August but down 8.9 bushels from last year. Peanut production is forecast at 3.82 billion pounds, down 7 percent from last month's crop and down 11 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.36 million acres, 5 percent below the August estimate and down 4 percent from 2001. Yields are expected to average 2,808 pounds, 77 pounds below last month and down 221 pounds from 2001. Production of summer potatoes is forecast at 18.8 million cwt in 2002, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and 3 percent above a year ago. Harvest area is estimated at 60,600 acres, up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at a record high 310 cwt per acre, equal to last year but 6 cwt above two years ago.

**September 2002 Crop Summary: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2001 and Forecasted September 1, 2002**

Crop	Unit	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
		-----1,000 Acres-----		-----Units-----		-----1,000 Units-----	
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>							
Corn for Grain	Bu	46	38	180.0	180.0	8,280	6,840
All Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	70.2	63.0	920	869	134.5	114.0
Upland Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	65.0	56.0	916	857	124.0	100.0
A-P Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	5.2	7.0	969	960	10.5	14.0
Sorghum for Grain	Bu	140	75	45.0	35.0	6,300	2,625
Peanuts	Lb	22.2	23.0	3,020	2,500	67,044	57,500
Potatoes, Summer <sup>3/</sup>	Ton	2.2	2.5	350	360	770	900
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for Grain	Bu	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	9,506,840	8,848,529
All Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	13,827.7	12,891.4	705	675	20,302.8	18,134.0
Upland Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	13,559.5	12,650.0	694	664	19,602.4	17,505.0
A-P Cotton <sup>1/2/</sup>	Lb	268.2	241.4	1,254	1,251	700.4	629.0
Sorghum for Grain	Bu	8,584	7,528	59.9	51.0	514,524	384,254
Peanuts	Lb	1,411.9	1,360.5	3,029	2,808	4,276,704	3,820,950
Potatoes, Summer <sup>3/</sup>	Ton	58.8	60.6	310	310	18,209	18,813

<sup>1/</sup> Production ginned and to be ginned. <sup>2/</sup> Yield reported in pounds per acre: production in bales (480 lb net wt).

<sup>3/</sup> 2001 crop revised.

## LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY OUTLOOK

*USDA ERS, AUGUST 2002*

**Milk Production Jumps:** April-June milk production grew 3 percent from a year earlier, following an increase of more than 2 percent in the first quarter. Milk per cow recovered substantially from the 2001 slips but did not completely reach its long-run trend. Compared with typical changes, first-half strength in milk production owed as much to milk cow numbers as it did to vigorous milk per cow. And, some of the increases in milk cow numbers came in unusual places.

First-half milk production grew rapidly in the western regions. Increased cow numbers were the primary factor as milk per cow returned to only about 2000 levels. Heifer supplies, hay prices, and increased restrictions on new dairy farms in some areas continue to slow industry development in the West, but pent-up expansion pressures from the relatively strong returns of earlier years kept cow numbers rising. Milk production recovered considerably in the Northeast and quite modestly in the Southern Plains and Appalachian regions. Meanwhile, output continued to decrease in the remaining southern regions and the Lake States, mostly the result of dairy farm exits.

States posting gains of 5 percent or more in first-half milk production fit into three categories. New Mexico, Idaho, and California are long-expanding States where such large increases are not unusual, particularly when expansion had been somewhat stifled. In Arizona, New York, and Ohio, milk production simply bounced back after being quite weak a year earlier. Lastly, Oregon, Kansas, and Colorado (States that generally have had stable or declining long-run milk production) have joined the ranks of States with large increases in milk cow numbers and milk production. Like Indiana earlier, these areas have been part of an emerging pattern—cluster development of dairy farms.

Developing a cluster of new large dairy farms can offer advantages in financing and obtaining needed permits, particularly in areas without a history of large-scale dairying. Such a cluster automatically attracts input suppliers and market outlets for the milk. This development pattern is much lumpier than the more traditional style of incremental addition of individual farms and can generate large proportional increases in States with relatively small milk production.

Weather, irregular forage quality, and continuing adjustments to accommodate tight supplies of replacement heifers have combined to limit the recovery in milk per cow. If feed grain and oilseed crops continue to deteriorate, low milk-feed price ratios may join the list of hindrances to full recovery in milk per cow. Ratios during the second half of 2002 and 2003 are currently projected to stay at levels associated with below-trend growth in milk per cow.

The lower 2002 returns are expected to erode the increase in milk cow numbers generated by earlier returns. Second-half returns over concentrate costs are projected to average well below those of any recent year, even when the direct market loss payments are taken into account. However, expanding producers have been more successful in overcoming obstacles to growth than was earlier expected, and milk cow numbers may stay above a year earlier through the end of 2002. For all of 2002, milk production is projected to rise almost 3 percent on the strength of a sizable rise in milk per cow and a tiny increase in average milk cow numbers.