

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE**

Crop Weather    Milk Production    Cattle on Feed

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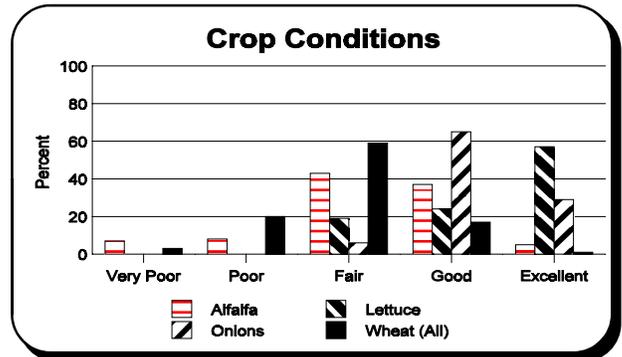
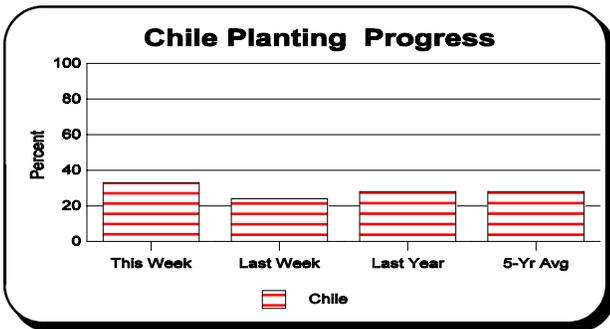
**CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 23, 2003**

**NEW MEXICO:** There were 4.8 days suitable for field work. Wind damage was 18% light and 1% moderate. So far the early blooming fruit trees have been free from freeze damage. Farmers spent the week preparing ground, irrigating, planting chile, and combating army worms. Many farmers, especially in the northern counties, were enjoying rainfall. Onions are doing well with most of the crop reported in good to excellent condition. Planting is nearly complete at 97%. Chile planting is moving along at 33%. Lettuce is in fair to excellent condition. The winter wheat crop is listed as 3% very poor, 20% poor, 59% fair, 17% good and 1% excellent. Wheat being grazed has dropped to 29% as more and more cattle are being moved off the fields. Alfalfa remains in mostly fair to good condition. Ranchers were busy calving, branding, hauling water, and supplementing feed. Cattle are listed as 7% very poor, 15% poor, 41% fair, and 37% good. Sheep are listed as 9% very poor, 19% poor, 37% fair, 34% good, and 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions are 27% very poor, 25% poor, 41% fair, and 7% good.

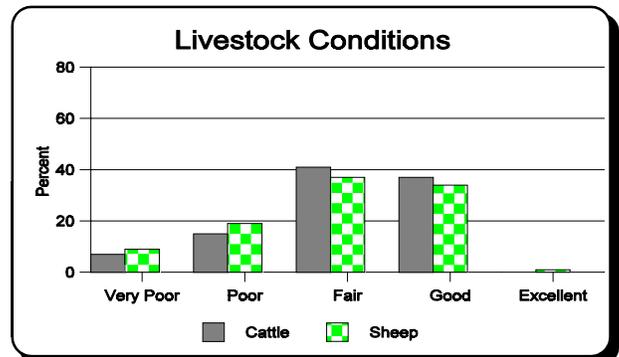
**CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS**

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	33	24	28	28
ONIONS	Planted	97	87	91	96
WHEAT	Grazed	29	41	30	1/

<sup>1/</sup> Not available

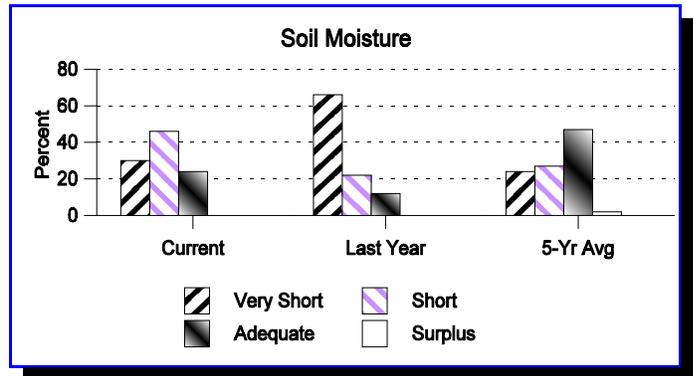


	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	7	8	43	37	5
Lettuce	—	—	19	24	57
Onions	—	—	6	65	29
Wheat (All)	3	20	59	17	1
Cattle	7	15	41	37	—
Sheep	9	19	37	34	1
Range/Pasture	27	25	41	7	—



**SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	11	29	60	--
Northeast	11	45	44	--
Southwest	12	50	38	--
Southeast	56	19	25	--
State	30	46	24	--
State-Last Year	66	22	12	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	24	27	47	2



**WEATHER SUMMARY**

A number of areas across the state, especially the north central and northeast counties, enjoyed several days of soaking rain or snow as a series of upper level storm centers moved slowly across the region. Temperatures were mild and tilted toward several degrees below normal because of the cloud cover.

**NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS MARCH 17 - MARCH 23, 2003**

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	03/17 03/23	03/01 03/23	Normal Mar	01/01 03/23	Normal Jan-Mar
Carlsbad	56.0	82	38	0.06	0.11	0.30	1.29	1.00
Hobbs	51.1	78	36	0.07	0.09	0.52	0.47	1.41
Roswell	53.4	83	36	0.12	0.12	0.45	0.64	1.34
Clayton	43.9	75	30	0.29	0.33	0.55	0.40	1.10
Clovis	50.7	77	37	0.11	0.11	0.59	0.24	1.49
Roy	43.4	68	29	0.35	0.35	0.55	0.50	1.32
Tucumcari	50.1	77	33	1.47	1.47	0.40	2.08	1.13
Chama	31.6	57	13	0.63	1.07	1.99	3.43	5.34
Johnson Ranch	38.2	65	25	0.36	0.36	0.74	1.60	1.98
Capulin	37.1	67	25	0.79	1.26	0.89	1.93	1.85
Las Vegas	39.5	67	25	0.40	0.41	0.56	1.01	1.27
Los Alamos	37.4	60	25	0.44	0.55	1.22	1.44	2.88
Raton	38.7	71	24	1.09	1.56	0.83	1.92	1.84
Santa Fe	39.9	65	26	0.89	0.89	0.74	1.83	2.06
Red River	29.6	52	2	1.66	1.73	1.78	5.24	4.07
Farmington	43.6	69	25	0.14	0.47	0.81	2.50	1.97
Gallup	38.3	66	16	0.12	0.39	1.05	1.39	2.59
Grants	39.9	67	17	0.00	0.03	0.50	0.41	1.50
Silver City	41.8	67	27	0.46	0.64	0.96	2.14	3.37
Quemado	36.7	66	16	0.15	0.65	0.80	1.34	2.35
Albuquerque	45.4	73	32	0.90	0.96	0.54	1.98	1.44
Carrizozo	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.94	1.74
Gran Quivera	43.5	68	27	0.15	0.15	0.72	0.45	2.24
Moriarty	42.2	70	24	0.51	0.53	0.53	0.89	1.44
Ruidoso	39.2	62	25	0.47	0.51	1.33	1.47	3.61
Socorro	49.2	78	25	0.10	0.10	0.27	0.49	1.05
Alamogordo	52.2	75	36	0.01	0.01	0.46	1.18	1.67
Animas	49.0	78	33	0.13	0.13	0.47	1.40	1.66
Deming	49.8	78	32	0.05	0.12	0.34	1.89	1.36
T or C	51.2	78	36	0.01	0.06	0.34	0.98	1.18
Las Cruces	51.4	80	32	0.08	0.12	0.22	1.91	1.05

(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 February totaled 505 million pounds, up 7.5 percent from February 2002. Production per cow averaged 1,615 pounds compared to 1,610 pounds one year ago. Number of milk cows increased to 313,000 head, up 3,000 from January 2003 and 23,000 head more than the number on farms in February 2002. New Mexico remains 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in milk production.

**UNITED STATES:** Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2002. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2002. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,485 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2002, and 3,000 head more than January 2003.

**Milk Cows and Production: January 2003<sup>1/</sup> and February 2002-2003**

State	Milk Cows <sup>2/</sup>			Milk per Cow <sup>3/</sup>			Milk Production <sup>3/</sup>		
	2/02	1/03	2/03	2/02	1/03	2/03	2/02	1/03	2/03
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	142	150	150	1,970	2,035	1,915	280	305	287
CA	1,626	1,681	1,686	1,620	1,770	1,635	2,634	2,975	2,757
FL	152	147	147	1,335	1,415	1,345	203	208	198
ID	381	392	393	1,590	1,800	1,630	606	706	641
IL	115	114	114	1,440	1,580	1,485	166	180	169
IN	154	146	146	1,340	1,535	1,400	206	224	204
IA	208	207	204	1,430	1,595	1,480	297	330	302
KY	123	120	120	1,100	1,115	1,040	135	134	125
MI	295	301	299	1,545	1,710	1,560	456	515	466
MN	495	480	480	1,385	1,520	1,385	686	730	665
MO	139	134	133	1,150	1,240	1,150	160	166	153
<b>NM</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>505</b>
NY	672	680	682	1,405	1,505	1,390	944	1,023	948
OH	260	260	260	1,365	1,445	1,350	355	376	351
PA	583	590	588	1,460	1,540	1,430	851	909	841
TX	310	311	311	1,400	1,550	1,450	434	482	451
VT	154	153	153	1,375	1,495	1,360	212	229	208
VA	120	118	118	1,290	1,340	1,250	155	158	148
WA	247	248	248	1,735	1,910	1,790	429	474	444
WI	1,278	1,265	1,265	1,350	1,490	1,370	1,725	1,885	1,733
<b>20 STS</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>7,807</b>	<b>7,810</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>11,401</b>	<b>12,548</b>	<b>11,596</b>

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

**CATTLE ON FEED**

**NEW MEXICO:** Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in New Mexico for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 112,000 head on March 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 11,000, an increase of 2,000 head over January 2003 but 1,000 head below the February 2002 total. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 12,000 head compared to 11,000 head in February 2002. Other disappearance remained at 1,000 head for the month.

**UNITED STATES:** Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.52 million head on March 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 8 percent below 2002 but 5 percent above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.73 million, 4 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during February, 13 percent above 2002 but 12 percent below 2001.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots <sup>1/</sup>**

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance <sup>2/</sup>		
	3/1/02	2/1/03	3/1/03	-----DURING-----								
				2/02	1/03	2/03	2/02	1/03	2/03	2/02	1/03	2/03
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	310	291	279	26	29	22	26	24	31	1	3	3
CA	475	475	470	55	58	54	50	67	56	5	6	3
CO	1,150	1,030	990	190	*225	170	210	*205	200	10	10	10
ID	315	285	280	58	56	50	61	65	54	2	1	1
IA	400	360	360	57	69	58	51	62	56	1	2	2
KS	2,420	2,220	2,240	435	540	410	450	500	370	15	20	20
NE	2,300	2,220	2,190	370	480	330	350	390	350	10	10	10
<b>NM</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>*114</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
OK	345	*330	320	55	*51	46	59	49	55	1	2	1
SD	210	215	215	45	53	40	34	42	39	1	1	1
TX	2,850	*2,600	2,560	410	*420	370	400	435	395	10	15	15
WA	229	180	180	43	36	31	50	39	30	1	2	1
Oth Sts	405	340	325	54	75	65	49	68	77	5	2	3
<b>US</b>	<b>11,518</b>	<b>*10,660</b>	<b>10,521</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>*2,101</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>*1,959</b>	<b>1,725</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. <sup>2/</sup> Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. \* Revised.