

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather NASS Monthly Ag Newsletter Agricultural Prices Received

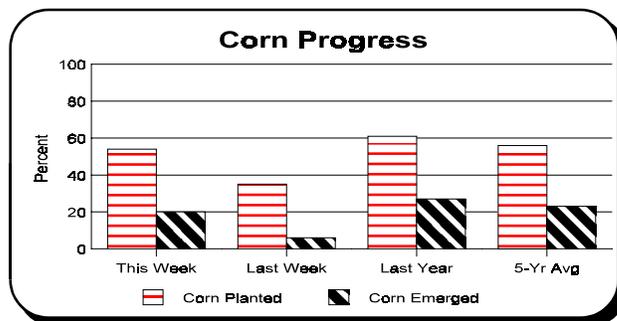
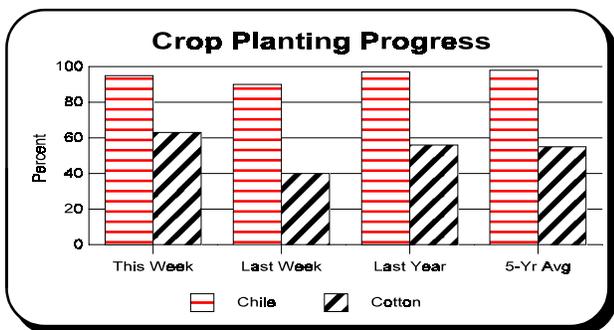
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2003

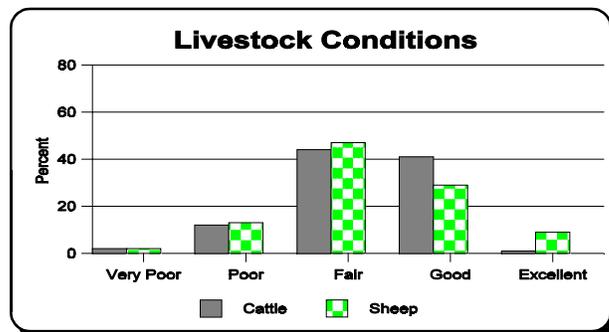
NEW MEXICO: There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Wind damage was 22% light, 14% moderate, and 3% severe. Damage was primarily to chile and cotton. Farmers spent the week preparing land, irrigating, planting crops, spraying for insects, and cutting alfalfa and wheat for hay and silage. Alfalfa remained in mostly fair to good condition, with 56% of the first cutting complete. Corn was reported as 54% planted, with 20% emerged. Cotton was 63% planted. Total winter wheat was 54% headed, with conditions almost unchanged at 27% very poor, 35% poor, 27% fair, and 11% good. Lettuce progress jumped to 30% harvested, and conditions remain listed as fair to excellent. Chile planting was almost finished at 95% complete, with conditions reported as mostly fair to good. Onions were still in fair to excellent condition. Pecans are looking good and are catkinning out. Ranchers spent the week calving, hauling water, and supplementing feed. Many were deepening their wells and reducing herds as the drought situation gets worse. Livestock conditions showed some improvement, but mostly because of the culling off of poorer doing animals. Cattle were listed as 2% very poor, 12% poor, 44% fair, 41% good, and 1% excellent. Sheep were listed as 2% very poor, 13% poor, 47% fair, 29% good, and 9% excellent. Pasture and range desperately need moisture. Conditions were reported as 30% very poor, 40% poor, 27% fair, and only 3% good.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	95	90	97	98
CORN	Planted	54	35	61	56
CORN	Emerged	20	6	27	23
COTTON	Planted	63	40	56	55
LETTUCE	Harvested	30	3	26	30
WHEAT (ALL)	Headed	54	18	59	45

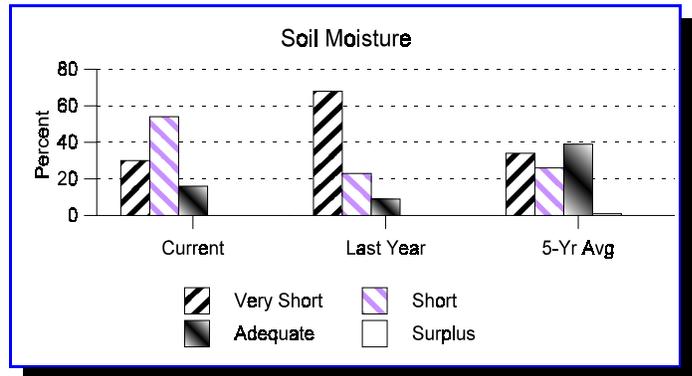


	CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	8	9	56	23	4
Lettuce	--	--	10	24	66
Chile	--	2	11	79	8
Onions	--	--	11	55	34
Wheat (All)	26	34	24	15	1
Cattle	2	12	44	41	1
Sheep	2	13	47	29	9
Range/Pasture	30	40	27	3	--



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	33	42	25	--
Northeast	43	52	5	--
Southwest	--	100	--	--
Southeast	24	48	28	--
State	30	54	16	--
State-Last Year	68	23	9	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	34	26	39	1



WEATHER SUMMARY

New Mexico experienced a fairly normal spring week with temperatures within a few degrees of normal at most locations. Temperatures hit the 90's at some of the lower elevation stations of the southeast, with Roswell topping out at 97 degrees on the 3rd. Typical, spring, breezy conditions prevailed during the week, with gusty winds common during the afternoons. Precipitation was spotty and light, and confined to the north on the 4th. Gallup (.05") and Farmington (.01") were the only spots that measured any rainfall at all.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2003

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	04/28 05/04	05/01 05/04	Normal May	01/01 05/04	Normal Jan-May
Carlsbad	73.6	95	49	0.00	0.00	1.16	1.40	2.65
Tatum	68.6	92	46	0.00	0.00	2.09	0.49	4.14
Roswell	71.6	97	45	0.00	0.00	1.24	0.71	3.23
Clayton	59.7	81	45	T	0.00	1.99	0.87	4.03
Clovis	64.2	86	41	0.00	0.00	1.87	0.35	4.17
Roy	55.8	73	40	0.00	0.00	1.84	0.60	3.98
Tucumcari	66.6	88	43	0.00	0.00	1.49	2.53	3.49
Chama	41.9	65	18	0.00	0.00	1.11	4.08	7.72
Johnson Ranch	50.0	75	21	T	0.00	0.62	1.73	3.09
Capulin	52.7	75	31	T	0.00	2.30	2.22	5.16
Las Vegas	53.3	74	35	0.00	0.00	1.68	1.04	3.84
Los Alamos	53.6	68	39	0.00	0.00	1.17	2.43	5.05
Raton	54.1	78	32	0.00	0.00	2.27	2.52	5.17
Santa Fe	53.2	76	28	0.00	0.00	1.22	2.05	4.09
Red River	43.9	61	20	0.00	0.00	1.77	7.16	7.52
Farmington	54.6	76	29	0.01	0.01	0.67	2.55	3.15
Gallup	50.6	72	23	0.05	0.05	0.51	1.56	3.74
Grants	51.0	75	23	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.64	2.48
Silver City	56.2	76	34	0.00	0.00	0.30	2.26	4.20
Quemado	49.1	73	23	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.47	3.45
Albuquerque	62.5	80	44	0.00	0.00	0.50	2.47	2.46
Carrizozo	60.9	80	38	0.00	0.00	0.62	1.16	2.72
Gran Quivera	58.4	77	36	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.45	3.70
Moriarty	57.5	82	33	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.91	3.07
Ruidoso	56.0	73	37	0.00	0.00	0.87	2.25	5.11
Socorro	61.1	86	35	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.49	1.93
Alamogordo	70.1	90	48	0.00	0.00	0.45	1.23	2.38
Animas	66.3	85	43	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.40	2.04
Deming	63.1	87	39	0.00	0.00	0.19	1.91	1.73
T or C	66.4	85	47	0.00	0.00	0.49	1.03	1.89
Las Cruces	64.9	90	40	0.00	0.00	0.29	1.91	1.55

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction
 All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

NASS MONTHLY AG NEWSLETTER

April 2003

The following estimates, forecasts, and projections are mainly taken from recent publications of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the USDA.

Corn: U.S. growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002. Corn stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 5.13 billion bushels, down 11% from a year earlier. Ending stocks on September 1, 2003 are expected to total 1.01 billion bushels, down 37% from last year. The projected market year average price for the 2002 corn crop is expected to be between \$2.25 to \$2.35 per bushel.

Cotton: All cotton plantings for 2003 are expected to total 14.3 million acres, 2 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.1 million acres, a 2 percent increase from 2002, but American-Pima acreage is expected to decrease 18% from last year.

Wheat: The 2003 all wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres. This is up 2% from 2002. Winter wheat acres are estimated at 44.3 million, up 6% from a year ago. Durum wheat acres are expected to decrease 3% from last year. The 2002 other spring wheat planted area is estimated at 14.6 million acres, down 7% from last year. All wheat stocks on March 1 were estimated at 905 million bushels, down 25% from a year ago. The market year average price for the 2002 crop is expected to be between \$3.55 and \$3.65 per bushel.

Other Crops: **Sorghum** plantings are expected to total 9.45 million acres, down 1% from 2002. **Barley** acreage intentions, at 5.38 million acres are up 6% from 2002. Producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of **hay** in 2003, down 1% from 2002.

Cattle: Mid-April **prices** for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged \$81 per cwt, up \$3 from mid-March. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were \$80 per cwt, up \$5 from the previous month.

Hogs: For the first two weeks of April, hog **slaughter** was running nearly even with a year ago. Cash **prices** at mid-April (Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct, 51-52% lean) averaged \$34 per cwt, down \$1 from the mid-March price. Second quarter prices are expected to average \$40 per cwt.

Other Livestock: March **milk production** was up 1.5% from the previous year. Production per cow increased 0.6%, and the number of cows increased 0.9% from a year earlier. The **cheddar cheese price** (U.S. 40 pound blocks, wholesale) was up the first two weeks of April. Total **cheese** production reported for the month of February 2003 was slightly below the previous year. **Butter** production during this same time period was 2.5% above last year. Production of **nonfat dry milk for human food** was up 5.3% from February 2002.

Prices: The rate of **inflation**, as monitored by the **CPI** for all urban consumers, increased 0.6% in March and has

increased 3.0% over the last 12 months. The **PPI** increased 1.5% in March and has increased 4.2% over the last 12 months. The March **prime rate**, averaging 4.25%, has been unchanged since December. Compared to a year earlier, **feed** prices in March were up 9%; **feeder livestock and poultry** down 8%; **fertilizer** up 18%; **ag chemicals** down 3%, **farm machinery** down 1%, **seeds** up 7% and **fuels** up 85%.

Trade. March U.S. **trade projections** for rice and soybeans improved while 2002/2003 export prospects for wheat, corn, and broilers declined, compared with last month. Cotton, beef, pork, and turkeys were unchanged from February. March projections for the volume of exports for the 2002/2003 marketing year compared to 2001/2002 are: **wheat** down 9%; **corn** down 7%; **rice** up 14%; **soybeans** down 10%; **soybean meal** down 20%; **soybean oil** down 17%; and **cotton** down 2%. March projections for the volume of meat exports in calendar 2003 compared to 2002 are: **beef** up 5%; **pork** up 2%; **broilers** up 7%; and **turkeys** up 7%. The **U.S. trade** deficit for goods and services decreased to \$41.1 billion in January, from a revised \$44.9 billion in December. The **U.S. agricultural trade** surplus was \$938.000 million in January, compared with \$1.221 billion in December.

World Weather and Crop Developments (April 13-20). In the **United States**, field preparation and planting resumed in the Southeast and Tennessee Valley as excess moisture gradually drained from soggy fields. Warmer-than-normal temperatures early in the week encouraged farmers to prepare soils for planting many areas of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Later in the week, rainfall brought nearly all fieldwork to a halt, then high temperatures and strong winds negated much of the benefit from the showers activity in some areas. The precipitation in the Rocky Mountains provided slight improvement to the crop condition and soil moisture. Excellent weather along the Gulf Coast allowed field activity to escalate. Late-season showers provided relief to the Pacific Coast and Great Basin, while delaying fieldwork and planting. Dry weather promoted planting activities in **Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus**, which were reportedly lagging behind last year's fast pace by as much as 4 weeks. Across **France**, continued dry, unseasonably warm weather stressed winter crops and germinating spring and summer crops. In **Turkey** and **Iran**, widespread rain benefited vegetative winter grains. Widespread rain benefited reproductive to early-filling winter grains across **Morocco** and **Algeria**. Dry weather favored winter grain planting in Western **Australia** but kept an extreme drought entrenched in southeastern Australia. Typhoon Kujira moved westward toward the central **Philippines**, causing moderate showers. Timely showers brought needed relief to winter wheat on the North **China** Plain. Late-week rain slowed summer crop harvesting in **Argentina** and **Brazil**. In South **Africa** mostly dry, warm weather in the corn belt continued to favor summer crop drydown and early harvesting.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO: Alfalfa hay prices in April averaged \$146.00 per ton compared to \$137.00 at this same time last year. The average U.S. price was \$96.20. All hay prices in April averaged \$142.00 compared to \$136.00 in April 2002. The average U.S. price in April was \$94.50. Cow prices in the state increased by \$1.40 to \$41.70 per hundredweight, \$1.60 above the U.S. average of \$40.10 per hundredweight. Steer and Heifer prices saw the same \$1.60 increase from \$76.10 in March 2003 to \$77.70 in April. This, however, was \$1.60 below the national average. Calf prices at \$95.10 were \$2.20 above the previous months' price of \$92.90, but below the price of one year ago of \$96.00. Prices for milk cow replacements averaged \$1350 in April. The U.S. average for milk cow replacements in April was \$1300. Milk prices declined by 20 cents to \$10.50 and were 40 cents below the national average of \$10.90.

Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, March 2003 and April 2002-03

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S.
		Apr 2002 ^{2/}	Mar 2003 ^{2/}	Apr 2003 ^{1/}	Apr ^{1/}
-----Dollars-----					
CROPS					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	--	--	--	3.96
Cotton, Upland	Lb	--	--	--	.450
Potatoes	Cwt	--	--	--	7.11
Hay, all baled	Ton	136.00	143.00	142.00	94.50
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	137.00	147.00	146.00	96.20
Peanuts	Lb	--	--	--	.206
Corn	Bu	--	--	--	2.35
Wheat, all	Bu	--	--	--	3.34
LIVESTOCK					
Sheep ^{3/}	Cwt	--	--	--	40.20
Lambs ^{3/}	Cwt	--	--	--	97.10
Cows	Cwt	41.50	40.30	41.70	40.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	75.60	76.10	77.70	79.30
Calves	Cwt	96.00	92.90	95.10	99.10
Milk Cow Replacement ^{4/}	Head	1700	--	1350	1300
Milk	Cwt	11.90	10.70	10.50	10.90

^{1/} Mid-month. ^{2/} Previous month. ^{3/} Entire month. ^{4/} Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct.