

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather

Crop Production

Farm Labor

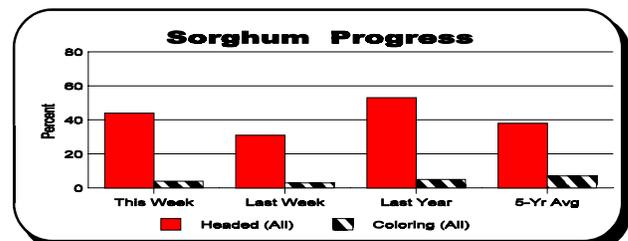
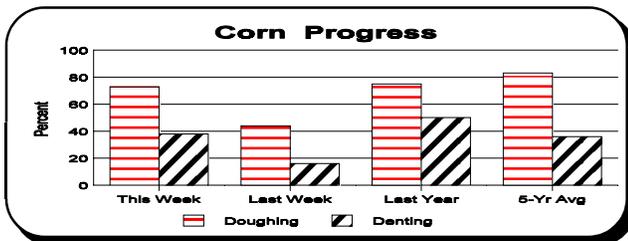
Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17, 2003

NEW MEXICO: There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Wind damage was 6% light and 2% moderate. Farmers spent the week cutting hay, harvesting green chile, irrigating, and starting silage cutting. Alfalfa conditions were showing little change at 10% very poor, 15% poor, 55% fair, 14% good, and 6% excellent with reports of the hot dry weather hurting production. Some areas are short of irrigation water leaving some farmers only to get one or two cuttings. Others reported to be 91% finished with their third cutting, the fourth at 85% complete, and the fifth cutting 30% complete. Corn remained in mostly fair to good condition and 100% silked. Corn doughing was 73% complete and 38% of the crop had reached the dent stage. Cotton is reported to be really blooming, but fields are cutting out quick. Conditions for cotton held steady over the week and reported in mostly fair to good condition, with 98% setting bolls and 8% had bolls opening. Little insect activity was reported for last week. Total sorghum remained in mostly very poor to fair condition. Total sorghum headed reached 44% and it was 4% coloring. Peanuts saw a slight drop through the week but still listed as mostly fair with 94% of the crop pegging. Fall lettuce was reported to be 90% planted. Chile was reported as mostly poor to good, and the green chile harvest was 36% complete. Pecan conditions showed some improvement and are listed as fair to excellent. Pecan drop was listed as 57% above average, and 43% heavy drop. Other crops such as pumpkins, watermelons, and pinto beans are all reported as 100% good. Ranchers spent the week branding and maintaining water supplies, while some continue to sell off herds due to drought conditions. Cattle conditions dropped slightly and were reported at 2% very poor, 22% poor, 48% fair, and 28% good. Sheep were listed as 15% very poor, 20% poor, 28% fair, and 37% good. Range and pasture was reported as 48% very poor, 35% poor, 14% fair, and 3% good.

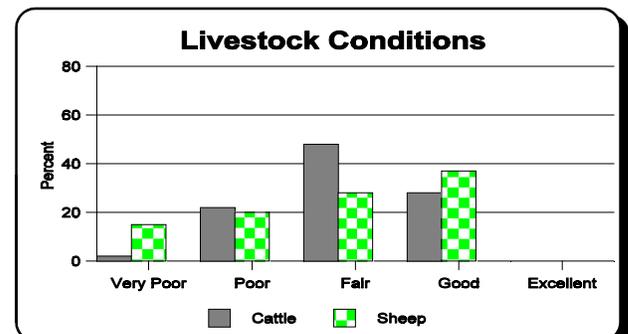
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Green	36	28	44	21
CORN	Doughing	73	44	75	83
CORN	Denting	38	16	50	36
COTTON	Opening Bolls	8	4	37	18
LETTUCE	Planted	90	80	43	58
SORGHUM (All)	Headed	44	31	53	48
SORGHUM (All)	Coloring	4	3	5	7



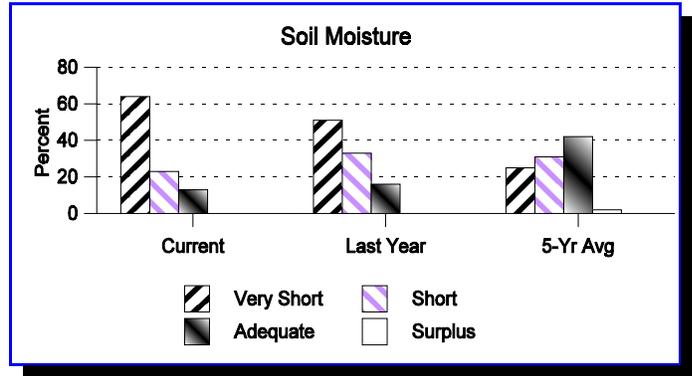
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	10	15	55	14	6
Apples	—	33	33	17	17
Chile	4	18	15	52	11
Corn	—	5	50	35	10
Cotton	4	12	46	26	12
Peanuts	—	1	67	30	2
Pecans	—	—	34	47	19
Sorghum (All)	19	34	43	4	—
Cattle	2	22	48	28	—
Sheep	15	20	28	37	—
Range/Pasture	48	35	14	3	—



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northeast	78	16	6	--
Southwest	58	42	--	--
Southeast	55	20	25	--
State	64	23	13	--
State-Last Year	51	33	16	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	25	31	42	2



WEATHER SUMMARY

The week began unusually warm but a low, westward moving system entered the state via Texas midweek and brought more widespread showers and thunderstorms along with cooler temperatures to most areas. Ruidoso received more rainfall this past week than they had seen during the month of July 2003. However the eastern plains and Albuquerque area missed most of the beneficial showers and storms.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS AUGUST 11- 17, 2003

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	08/11 08/17	08/01 08/17	Normal Aug	01/01 08/17	Normal Jan-Aug
Carlsbad	79.9	100	62	T	0.84	2.25	4.15	7.99
Tatum	75.2	98	59	0.01	0.11	2.48	4.90	11.17
Roswell	77.0	98	60	0.01	0.32	2.03	2.65	8.77
Clayton	72.8	93	55	0.00	0.01	2.61	8.26	11.61
Clovis	75.6	97	59	0.05	0.25	3.17	8.23	12.74
Roy	70.9	89	56	0.65	1.57	2.81	4.37	11.84
Tucumcari	76.4	98	59	0.01	0.63	2.41	9.11	10.98
Chama	59.9	85	37	0.44	0.91	2.82	9.74	13.90
Johnson Ranch	67.5	91	45	0.06	0.82	2.29	4.61	7.72
Capulin	65.8	85	49	0.00	1.19	2.56	9.08	13.08
Las Vegas	65.1	84	48	0.02	0.15	3.71	3.22	12.78
Los Alamos	65.0	83	48	0.45	1.22	3.52	5.28	13.18
Raton	67.8	91	48	0.11	1.63	3.21	7.35	13.03
Santa Fe	--	--	--	0.00	0.24	2.39	2.75	10.03
Red River	55.9	77	37	0.52	2.57	3.10	12.28	15.03
Farmington	75.6	97	55	T	0.24	1.05	2.33	5.36
Gallup	69.2	91	49	0.02	2.31	2.26	4.15	8.36
Grants	67.7	88	48	0.01	1.26	2.16	3.29	6.95
Silver City	70.6	92	54	0.22	0.93	3.09	3.56	10.64
Quemado	66.9	90	38	1.15	1.98	3.12	5.73	9.68
Albuquerque	76.0	94	59	T	0.55	1.64	3.31	6.06
Carrizozo	72.9	95	53	0.27	2.08	2.69	5.46	8.24
Gran Quivera	69.8	95	46	0.02	0.40	3.27	3.53	10.79
Moriarty	70.2	95	49	0.53	0.98	2.69	4.10	9.06
Ruidoso	62.9	84	45	1.82	2.34	4.04	6.78	15.03
Socorro	74.6	97	54	0.30	0.73	1.90	1.93	5.84
Alamogordo	79.1	100	61	0.00	0.03	2.41	2.42	7.92
Animas	79.0	98	55	0.06	0.43	2.34	1.89	7.08
Deming	78.7	99	62	0.07	0.59	2.05	3.42	6.48
T or C	76.7	96	60	0.09	0.78	2.15	2.25	6.59
Las Cruces	79.9	102	61	T	0.80	2.29	4.21	5.92

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

CROP PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: **Corn for grain** production is forecast at 6.8 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. Harvested acreage decreased by 9,000 acres while yields are expected to average 170 bushels per acre. **Upland cotton** producers expect to harvest 75,000 bales down 12 percent from 2002. Harvested acreage dropped by 8,000 acres but yields are expected to be at 857 pounds per acre, slightly above last years yield. **American-Pima** harvested acreage totaled 6,000 acres, 1,100 below last year. Yields are anticipated to reach 880 pounds per acre, well below the record yield set last year at 1,041 pounds per acre. The first **Sorghum** production forecast for 2003 is 3.5 million bushels , 700 thousand bushels from 2002. **Peanut** production is expected to fall below last years to 49.3 million pounds. Growers expect to harvest 17,000 acres, slightly below the previous year. Yields expected to average 2,900 pounds per acre. **Alfalfa** harvested acreage decreased to 250,000 acres 10,000 acres below last year. Production is forecast at 1.3 million tons and yields expected to average 5.3 tons per acre.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 6 percent above 2001. **All cotton** production is forecast at 17.1 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last year's 17.2 million bales. The yield is expected to average 667 pounds per harvested acre, up 2 pounds from 2002. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 16.7 million 480-pound bales, 1 percent above 2002. **American-Pima** production is forecast at 450,500 bales, down 34 percent from last year's output. **Sorghum** first production forecast for the 2003 crop year is 448 million bushels, up 21 percent from 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, the sorghum yield is forecast at 54.4 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels from last year. **Peanut** production is forecast at 3.96 billion pounds up 19 percent from last year's crop but down 7 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, 5 percent above the June estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,102 pounds per acre, 544 pounds per acre above the 2002 level. Planted acres, at 1.32 million, are 5 percent above the June estimate but 3 percent below 2002. **Alfalfa** production is forecast at 78.0 million tons, up 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.31, up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate but up 2 percent from 2002.

August 2003 Crop Summary: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2002 and Forecasted August 1, 2003

Crop	Unit	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
		-----1,000 Acres-----		-----Units-----		-----1,000 Units-----	
NEW MEXICO							
Corn for Grain	Bu.	49	40	180.0	170.0	8,820	6,800
All Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	57.1	48.0	844	860	100.4	86.0
Upland Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	50.0	42.0	816	857	85.0	75.0
A-P Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	7.1	6.0	1,041	880	15.4	11.0
Sorghum for Grain	Bu.	80	100	35.0	35.0	2,800	3,500
Peanuts	Lb.	18.0	17.0	3,000	2,900	54,000	49,300
Alfalfa, Hay	Ton	260	250	5.60	5.30	1,456	1,325
UNITED STATES							
Corn for Grain	Bu.	69,313	71,915	130.0	139.9	9,007,659	10,064,452
All Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	12,426.6	12,302.4	665	667	17,208.6	17,103.5
Upland Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	12,184.0	12,124.0	651	659	16,530.3	16,653.0
A-P Cotton ^{1/2/}	Lb.	242.6	178.4	1,342	1,212	678.3	450.5
Sorghum for Grain	Bu.	7,299	8,241	50.7	54.4	369,758	448,438
Peanuts	Lb.	1,296.7	1,277.0	2,561	3,102	3,320,490	3,961,200
Alfalfa, Hay	Ton	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.31	73,824	77,952

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

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 18,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of July 6th - 12th, 2003. This was 1,000 more than the corresponding week in July 2002. Hours worked averaged 47.7, an increase of 4.9 hours compared to last July, and 7.7 hours higher than the national average. Wages were not far off from last year, with all workers being paid an average of \$8.07 and hour, only 4 cents higher than last July. At 81 cents below the national average of \$8.88 an hour, the region still lags behind much of the country.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,273,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.88 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.38 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.28 per hour, was up 26 cents from last year.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
 Selected Regions and U.S., July 2002-2003 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	19	24	17	18	74	61	1,006	953
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	41.6	44.5	42.8	47.7	39.7	38.2	40.0	40.0
Wages By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	7.23	7.86	7.15	7.11	7.06	7.62	7.90	8.18
Livestock	7.35	8.62	8.11	8.41	7.23	7.58	8.38	8.62
Field & Livestock	7.27	8.06	7.43	7.55	7.14	7.60	8.02	8.28
All Workers	7.82	8.56	8.03	8.07	7.53	8.15	8.57	8.88

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.