

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather ERS Onions

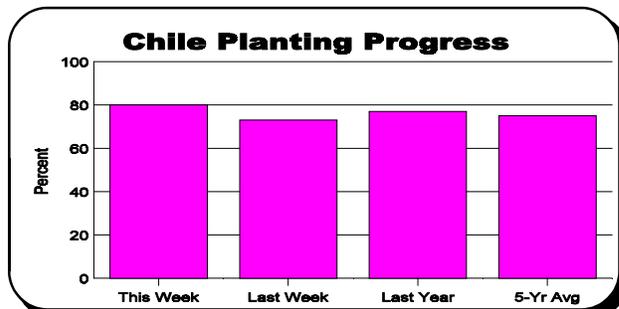
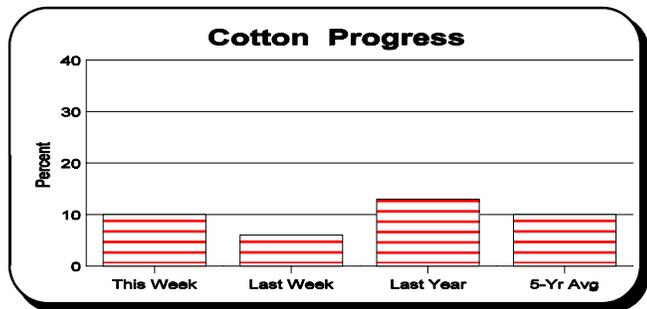
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 2004

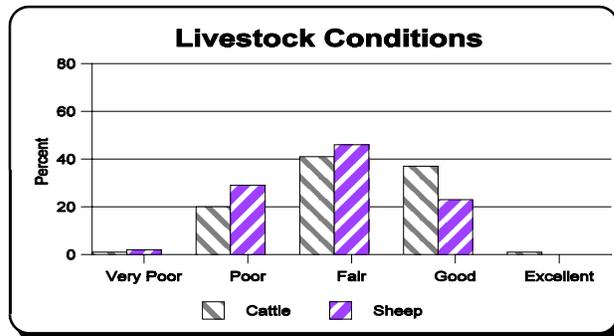
NEW MEXICO: There were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork. With the increased moisture and weather conditions, farmers were not able to do much in the fields which slowed corn and upland cotton planting. Alfalfa weevils have been spotted and farmers are treating fields. There was 14% light wind damage and 2% severe damage reported. Damage was reported to sprinklers, barns, alfalfa, small grains, and a dairy reported losing two cows and calves. Alfalfa conditions were 58% fair, 33% good, and 9% excellent with 5% of the first cutting complete. Cotton was reported at 10% planted and corn was 3% planted. Winter wheat conditions were listed as 18% very poor, 10% poor, 40% fair, and 32% good and 3% reported to be headed. Lettuce conditions remain mostly good to excellent. Chile conditions were 26% fair, 54% good, and 20% excellent with 80% planted. Onion conditions dropped slightly and are in mostly fair to good condition. Ranchers spent the week feeding cattle in hopes that the increased moisture will help pasture conditions soon. Cattle conditions were 1% very poor, 20% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, and 1% excellent. Sheep conditions were 2% very poor, 29% poor, 46% fair, and 23% good. Range and pasture conditions were 22% very poor, 32% poor, 36% fair, 7% good, and 3% excellent.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
COTTON	Planted	10	6	13	10
CHILE	Planted	80	73	77	75

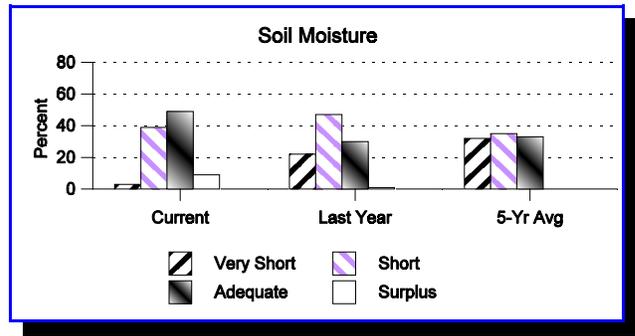


CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES					
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	-	-	58	33	9
Lettuce	-	-	10	61	29
Onions	-	-	30	50	20
Wheat (All)	18	10	40	32	--
Cattle	1	20	41	37	1
Sheep	2	29	46	23	--
Range/Pasture	22	32	36	7	3



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	4	15	59	22
Northeast	—	32	53	15
Southwest	—	34	33	33
Southeast	—	29	46	25
State	3	39	49	9
State-Last Year	22	47	30	1
State-5-Yr Avg.	32	35	33	--



WEATHER SUMMARY

Stormy weather continued over New Mexico for the second consecutive week as several weather features interacted with moist air over the state. Over one third of the reporting stations measured over an inch of precipitation, and Clayton and Clovis both measured over 2 inches. Severe storms also produced some hail and a few tornados over the eastern Plains on Wednesday. Much colder air brought some snow to parts of the state late in the week. Temperatures were generally below normal statewide, especially over the east.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS APRIL 5 - 11, 2004

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	04/05 04/11	04/01 04/11	Normal Apr	01/01 04/11	Normal Jan-Apr
Carlsbad	55.4	78	39	1.01	3.94	0.49	6.84	1.49
Tatum	48.0	72	4	1.52	4.09	0.64	7.73	2.05
Roswell	53.4	75	38	1.05	3.11	0.65	4.78	1.99
Clayton	44.3	64	30	2.07	3.14	0.94	4.42	2.04
Clovis	49.0	71	34	2.07	3.34	0.81	6.20	2.30
Tucumcari	49.2	72	33	0.81	3.21	0.87	4.71	2.00
Chama	35.0	58	18	1.08	1.57	1.27	6.79	6.61
Johnson Ranch	42.2	58	26	1.42	5.46	0.49	7.35	2.47
Capulin	39.1	59	24	0.49	1.20	1.01	2.44	2.86
Las Vegas	39.1	59	24	0.72	1.50	0.89	2.26	2.16
Los Alamos	38.6	52	25	1.38	2.77	1.00	6.26	3.88
Raton	42.2	64	26	0.59	2.46	1.06	3.45	2.90
Santa Fe	42.2	64	28	0.75	1.87	0.81	3.13	2.87
Red River	36.3	50	20	0.96	3.03	1.68	6.81	5.75
Farmington	47.7	64	33	0.37	2.02	0.51	3.31	2.48
Gallup	44.8	59	29	0.28	1.10	0.64	2.44	3.23
Grants	43.4	61	31	0.61	1.74	0.45	2.64	1.95
Silver City	48.4	65	30	0.11	0.91	0.53	5.15	3.90
Quemado	45.0	58	26	0.26	0.60	0.60	2.17	2.95
Albuquerque	48.5	65	36	0.53	3.00	0.52	4.94	1.96
Carrizozo	48.7	69	31	0.83	1.55	0.36	3.17	2.10
Gran Quivera	47.6	66	30	0.74	1.38	0.64	3.51	2.88
Moriarty	43.0	68	26	0.81	1.28	0.66	3.84	2.10
Ruidoso	42.0	61	27	1.37	2.70	0.63	5.65	4.24
Socorro	51.6	71	35	0.52	2.76	0.36	3.26	1.41
Alamogordo	55.5	72	35	1.30	1.83	0.26	3.63	1.93
Animas	55.7	74	38	0.83	1.66	0.20	5.10	1.86
Deming	54.9	73	37	1.07	2.00	0.18	4.16	1.54
T or C	53.4	70	35	0.87	1.34	0.22	2.13	1.40
Las Cruces	55.9	76	35	1.58	1.91	0.21	3.42	1.26

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

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

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK
USDA, ERS, April 9, 2004

U.S. Cotton Acreage Projected To Rise in 2004: U.S. cotton area in 2004 is expected to increase 7 percent based on the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) *Prospective Plantings* report. As of early March, farmers intended to plant 14.4 million acres to cotton, nearly 1 million more than in 2003 but below the 5-year average of 14.7 million. Upland plantings are expected to approach 14.2 million acres, 6.5 percent above 2003, while extra-long staple (ELS) area is projected at 227,000 acres, 27 percent higher. Any changes to these estimates will be reflected in the USDA's June *Acreage* report.

According to *Prospective Plantings*, an increase in U.S. upland cotton area is forecast for each of the four regions of the Cotton Belt, with the Southwest expecting the largest gain. Cotton area in the Southwest is estimated at 6.4 million acres, about 10 percent above 2003 and the highest since 2000.

Upland area in the Delta is projected at about 3.8 million acres, 5 percent above 2003, and equal to the 5-year average. In the Southeast, plantings are expected to reach 3.1 million acres, 4 percent higher than 2003 and equal to the 10-year average. Smaller upland area gains are expected in the West, where 2004 intentions are 840,000 acres. While slightly above last season's 821,000 acres, the region's area remains one of the lowest in 45 years.

Cotton planting is underway in a few States, and the pace is progressing ahead of historical averages with the exception of Arizona. As of April 4th, California and Texas led the way with plantings at 20 and 15 percent complete, respectively. Arizona, however, had reported only 7 percent planted, compared with the 5-year average of 11 percent. The *Crop Progress* report also indicated that Louisiana had just begun planting. Overall, U.S. cotton plantings in early April were 8 percent complete, compared with 5 percent for 2003 and the 5-year average.

U.S. 2003/04 Cotton Supply/Demand Overview: The 2003/04 U.S. cotton crop remains estimated at 18.2 million bales (upland—17.8 million bales and ELS—429,000 bales). USDA will release final production estimates on May 12th. U.S. cotton supply this season is expected to total nearly 23.7 million bales, 1 million below last season but still one of the largest since 1966/67.

Likewise, U.S. cotton demand was unchanged in April. Total U.S. cotton demand remains projected at 20.1 million bales, nearly 5 percent above 2002/03 and slightly below 1994/95's high of 20.6 million. U.S. cotton exports are estimated at a record 13.8 million bales this season. Large U.S. exportable supplies and a record foreign import demand are supporting U.S. shipments in 2003/04. Meanwhile, U.S. mill use remains estimated at 6.3 million bales, the lowest level since the 1984 season. With U.S. demand exceeding production by 10 percent in 2003/04, ending stocks are forecast to decline nearly 2 million bales this season to 3.55 million. The implied stocks-to-use ratio

equals 17.7 percent, below last season's 28.1 percent and the lowest since 1995/96.

U.S. January Textile Imports and Exports Rise: January 2004 textile imports, at 1.3 billion (raw-fiberequivalent) pounds, were 2 percent above December and 5 percent above a year earlier. Increased imports of cotton, silk, and manmade fibers more than offset small declines in wool and linen textiles. All major end-use categories, except floor coverings, rose from a month earlier. Cotton textile imports, at 728 million pounds, accounted for 54 percent of total monthly shipments and were 4 percent above December 2003. Asian countries remain the principle source of cotton textile imports, accounting for 59 percent in January.

Textile exports totaled 360 million pounds, up 10 percent from December but 5 percent below January 2003. Exports in January increased for all major fibers and all end-uses, except floor coverings. U.S. cotton textile exports, at 171 million pounds, were 13 percent above December. Exports to other North American countries accounted for 94 percent of the January total, slightly above a month and a year ago.

The textile trade deficit for total fibers during January 2004 was 977 million pounds, 5 percent above a year ago. The deficit rose for all major fibers except cotton, compared with a year earlier. Cotton's share of the trade deficit was 57 percent, down 3 percent from January 2003.

Little Change in USDA's World Cotton Estimates in April: USDA's April 2003/04 world cotton forecasts are largely unchanged compared with USDA's March forecasts. USDA's April 2003/04 consumption forecast is unchanged from March, and the production forecast is only 84,000 bales lower. Imports, exports, and beginning stocks are all also forecast slightly lower than in March, with declines ranging from 60,000 bales to 97,000 bales. With both beginning stocks and production for 2003/04 estimated lower in April than in March, USDA's forecast of 2003/04 ending stocks is 120,000 bales lower this month.

Compared with 2002/03, world production in 2003/04 is forecast up 4.5 million bales, to 92.8 million bales. World consumption in 2003/04 is forecast down from 2002/03 by 740,000 bales (or 0.8 percent), to 97.9 million bales. World trade is forecast up 2.9 million bales from the year before—reaching 33.3 million—while world beginning stocks are forecast down 10.7 million bales, at 36.3 million. World ending stocks are expected to fall for the second year, down 4.7 million bales to 31.6 million. Ending stocks as a share of consumption in 2003/04 are forecast at 32 percent, however, if China is excluded the share rises to 37 percent. This would be the lowest share for stocks since 1997. If world consumption is further adjusted to include China's net imports, ending stocks fall to a 33-percent share, the lowest since 1995.

ONIONS

NEW MEXICO: Planted onion acreage for 2004 is 7,400 acres. This compares to 7,700 acres planted in 2003 and 8,100 acres planted in 2002. At the national level 177,270 acres were planted. This represents a 6.5 percent increase over the 2003 acreage planted of 166,460 acres.

Onions: Area Planted by Season, State, and United States, 2002-2004

Season and State	2002	2003	2004
	-----Acres-----		
Spring Onions ^{1/}	38,900	35,200	38,800
Summer Onions Non-Storage ^{1/}			
CA ^{2/}	7,500	7,800	7,700
NV	3,300	3,100	3,200
NM	8,100	7,700	7,400
TX	3,000	2,700	3,400
WA	1,100	1,400	1,500
Total Non-Storage	23,000	22,700	23,200
Summer Storage	107,250	108,560	115,270
Total Summer	130,250	131,260	138,470
U.S. Total Onions	169,150	166,460	177,270

^{1/} Primarily fresh market. ^{2/} Primarily dehydrated and other processing.