

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather Cattle on Feed Farm Labor

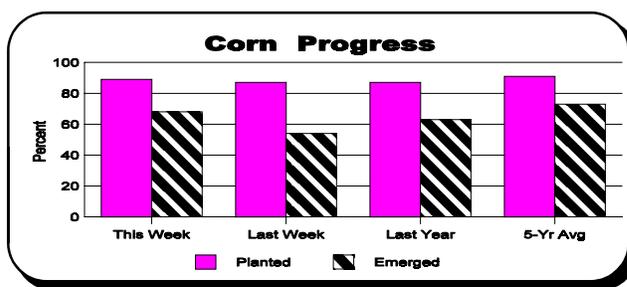
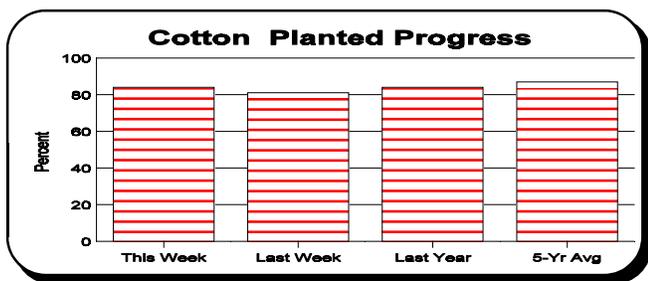
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 23, 2004

NEW MEXICO: There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was 22% very short, 46% short, and 32% adequate. Farmers were busy irrigating, planting, maintaining, and harvesting crops. Wind damage to crops was minimal again last week with 20% light damage and 6% moderate damage reported. Alfalfa harvesting was ahead with 91% of the 1st cutting and 11% of the 2nd cutting completed. Alfalfa conditions were healthy, with 8% reported as excellent, 48% good, 43% fair, and only 1% poor. Cotton conditions were mostly good to fair. Cotton planting progressed with 84% planted. Eighty-nine percent of corn has been planted and 68% has emerged with conditions reported as 4% excellent, 62% good, and 34% fair. Sorghum planting continues with 14% completed. Wheat conditions decreased with a shift from good to fair. Ninety percent of wheat has headed. Lettuce harvesting continues with 70% complete. Conditions for lettuce are 30% excellent, 40% good, and 30% fair. Chile conditions continue to increase with 13% reported as excellent, 62% good, and 25% fair. With 16% of harvesting completed, onions were listed as 30% excellent, 49% good, and 21% fair. Apple conditions decreased with a shift toward poor. Apple fruit set was reported at 17% heavy and 83% average. Pecans appeared healthy with 21% listed as excellent, 67% good, and 12% fair. Pecan nut set was mostly average. Ranching activities included branding calves, maintaining waters, and maintaining herds. Cattle conditions were reported as 9% excellent, 40% good, 37% fair, and 14% poor. Sheep conditions were similar with a trend toward poor. Range and pasture conditions were 14% good, 37% fair, 35% poor, and 14% very poor.

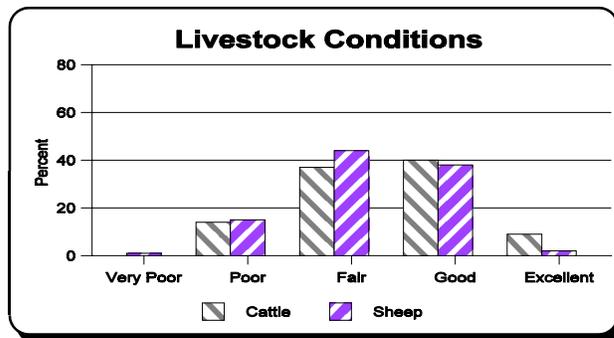
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CORN	Emerged	68	54	63	73
COTTON	Planted	84	81	84	87
LETTUCE	Harvested	70	60	79	79
ONIONS	Harvest	16	N/A	9	8
PEANUTS	Planted	45	20	38	33
SORGHUM (ALL)	Planted	14	11	8	12
WHEAT (ALL)	Headed	90	79	96	95



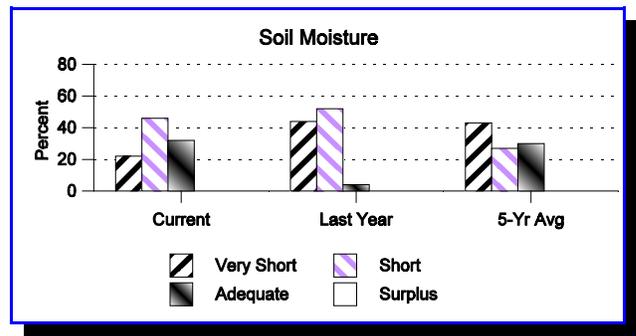
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	—	1	43	48	8
Apples	7	50	42	—	—
Chile	—	—	25	62	13
Corn	—	—	34	62	4
Cotton	—	5	44	40	11
Lettuce	—	—	30	40	30
Onions	—	—	21	49	30
Pecan	—	—	12	67	21
Wheat (All)	15	24	39	18	4
Cattle	—	14	37	40	9
Sheep	1	15	44	38	2
Range/Pasture	14	35	37	14	—



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	5	43	52	--
Northeast	15	53	32	--
Southwest	57	40	3	--
Southeast	27	45	28	--
State	22	46	32	--
State-Last Year	44	52	4	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	43	27	30	--



WEATHER SUMMARY

It was another dry week in New Mexico with only a few thunderstorms scattered over the eastern plains on Thursday afternoon. Clayton (.43") was the only spot that measured over a quarter of an inch. Radar indicated some areas of the southeast likely had some large hail with the storms. Temperatures for the week were generally a few degrees above normal, especially in the eastern counties. Carlsbad reported the first 100 degree reading of the year for the state on Tuesday the 18th.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY 17 - 23, 2004

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	05/17 05/23	05/01 05/23	Normal May	01/01 05/23	Normal Jan-May
Carlsbad	79.4	100	58	0.09	0.12	1.16	7.20	2.65
Tatum	74.5	96	54	0.16	0.16	2.09	8.13	4.14
Roswell	76.9	98	51	T	0.00	1.24	5.88	3.23
Clayton	69.9	91	44	0.43	0.43	1.99	7.30	4.03
Clovis	75.9	95	55	T	0.92	1.87	7.66	4.17
Tucumcari	74.9	98	48	0.00	0.00	1.49	5.43	3.49
Chama	48.7	77	20	0.00	0.00	1.11	7.71	7.72
Johnson Ranch	57.3	84	29	0.00	0.00	0.62	6.09	3.09
Capulin	60.5	84	34	0.00	0.13	2.30	4.38	5.16
Las Vegas	62.4	84	40	0.01	0.07	1.82	6.69	4.36
Los Alamos	62.4	77	47	0.00	0.00	1.17	6.56	5.05
Raton	61.8	86	33	T	0.02	2.27	5.84	5.17
Santa Fe	61.4	86	33	0.00	0.00	1.22	3.16	4.09
Red River	51.2	73	26	0.00	0.04	1.77	9.43	7.52
Farmington	63.4	89	37	0.00	0.00	0.67	3.74	3.15
Gallup	57.1	84	33	0.00	0.00	0.51	2.49	3.74
Grants	58.7	86	33	0.00	0.00	0.53	3.20	2.48
Silver City	65.6	87	43	0.00	0.00	0.30	5.15	4.20
Quemado	57.4	85	27	0.00	0.00	0.50	2.21	3.45
Albuquerque	71.1	90	50	0.00	0.00	0.50	4.94	2.46
Carrizozo	67.8	91	45	0.00	0.09	0.62	3.26	2.72
Gran Quivera	66.1	87	43	0.00	0.00	0.82	4.54	3.70
Moriarty	64.1	92	35	0.00	0.00	0.97	4.16	3.07
Ruidoso	62.9	83	42	0.00	0.07	0.87	6.09	5.11
Socorro	71.6	93	43	0.00	0.00	0.52	4.06	1.93
Alamogordo	76.3	95	56	0.00	0.00	0.45	3.63	2.38
Animas	72.6	95	43	0.00	0.00	0.18	5.10	2.04
Deming	71.4	97	46	0.00	0.00	0.19	4.01	1.73
T or C	74.6	95	56	0.00	0.00	0.49	2.27	1.89
Las Cruces	74.8	96	52	0.00	0.00	0.29	3.36	1.55

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

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

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 17,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 6 percent from last April. Average hours worked by all hired workers dropped to 45.7 hours a week compared to 47.3 hours last year. Wage rates for field workers were up from last April at \$7.55 an hour, an increase of 45 cents. Livestock worker wages dropped slightly to \$8.20, compared to \$8.24 an hour in April 2003. Overall, average wage rates for all hired agricultural workers improved to \$8.37 an hour, up 44 cents from this time last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
Selected Regions and U.S., April 03-04 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Apr 6-12	Apr 11-17	Apr 6-12	Apr 11-17	Apr 6-12	Apr 11-17	Apr 6-12	Apr 11-17
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	22	26	16	17	49	46	781	825
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	39.1	40.8	47.3	45.7	40.7	41.0	40.1	40.7
Wages By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	8.32	9.66	7.10	7.55	7.62	7.50	8.40	8.46
Livestock	8.86	8.83	8.24	8.20	7.98	7.93	8.75	8.95
Field & Livestock	8.60	9.29	7.52	7.81	7.75	7.62	8.49	8.58
All Workers	9.43	9.84	7.93	8.37	8.31	8.13	9.16	9.22

^{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.

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 on May 1, 2004, totaled 105,000 head, unchanged from April. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 14,000 head down from 16,000 head in March 2004. Marketings of fed cattle during April were down from the previous month's total of 21,000 to 11,000 head. Other disappearance totaled 3,000 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 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002. Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	5/1/03	4/1/04	5/1/04	DURING								
				4/03	3/04	4/04	4/03	3/04	4/04	4/03	3/04	4/04
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	269	293	295	32	33	31	40	32	27	1	3	2
CA	470	495	500	61	70	75	63	71	67	3	4	3
CO	1,000	970	940	200	150	155	165	190	175	5	10	10
ID	275	255	250	45	39	45	49	46	47	1	3	3
IA	370	415	415	57	69	57	60	56	53	2	3	4
KS	2,270	2,360	2,240	420	460	355	450	470	440	20	20	35
NE	2,080	2,210	2,100	320	295	320	420	350	420	10	5	10
NM	101	105	105	21	16	14	24	21	11	1	2	3
OK	330	330	310	68	74	51	75	77	68	3	2	3
SD	210	205	200	31	33	26	29	36	28	2	2	3
TX	2,680	2,640	2,560	540	490	415	520	530	480	10	10	15
WA	170	170	160	25	29	24	34	33	33	1	1	1
Oth Sts	310	300	285	50	46	35	56	54	45	4	2	5
US	10,535	10,748	10,360	1,870	1,804	1,603	1,985	1,966	1,894	63	67	97

^{1/} 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. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.