

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather Cattle on Feed Farm Labor

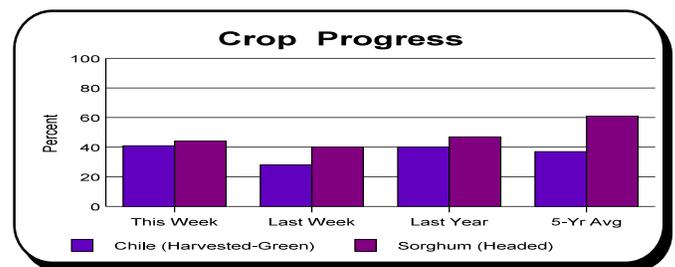
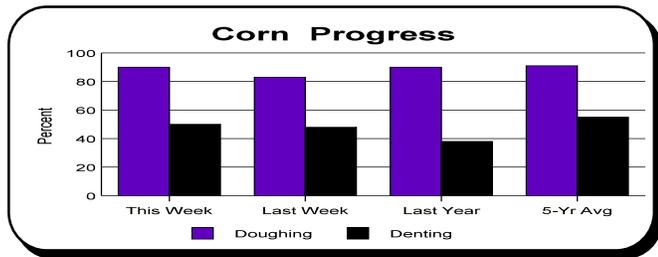
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 2004

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was 11% very short, 30% short, 47% adequate, and 12% surplus. In most areas, farmers continued cutting and baling alfalfa, even as wet conditions slowed alfalfa progress in other areas. Irrigating and chile harvest continued. Ranchers were busy with feeding, watering, and marketing. General crop conditions were only slightly affected by wind with 10% light damage reported. Some hail damage occurred with 3% light and 3% moderate reported and 1% severe. Alfalfa was in mostly good condition with 84% of the 4th complete, and 30% of the 5th cutting complete. Cotton conditions remained fairly stable at 1% poor, 27% fair, 65% good, and 7% excellent. Progress was at 96% setting bolls with 4% bolls opening. Corn conditions were reported mostly good to excellent with 90% of the crop in the dough stage, 50% dented and 3% in the mature stage. Sorghum conditions were reported in mostly fair to good with reports indicating 2% poor, 40% fair, 50% good, and 8% excellent. Total crop headed was at 44% and coloring is at 7%. Peanuts were 50% fair and 50% good with 100% of the crop reported pegging. Pecans continue to be in fair to excellent condition. Pecan drop was 1% below average, 97% average and 2% heavy. Chile conditions were listed as 13% fair, 72% good, and 15% excellent with 41% of the green chile crop reported harvested. Apple conditions were very poor to fair. Fall lettuce planting progress was at 86% complete. Cattle conditions were 3% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, and 13% excellent. Sheep conditions were 2% very poor, 8% poor, 65% fair, 19% good, and 6% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were in mostly fair condition with reports indicating 8% very poor, 22% poor, 36% fair, 21% good, and 13% excellent.

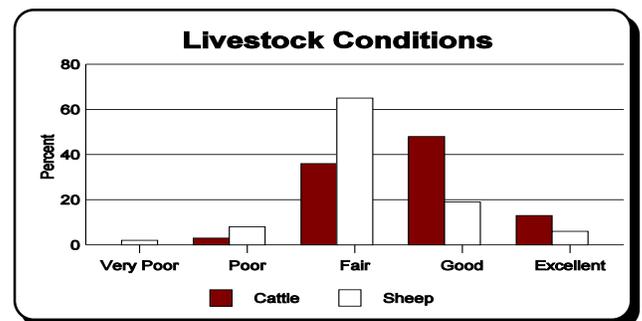
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Green	41	28	40	37
CORN	Doughing	90	83	90	91
CORN	Denting	50	48	38	55
COTTON	Setting Bolls	96	93	98	99
LETTUCE	Planted	86	76	90	72
SORGHUM (All)	Headed	44	40	47	61



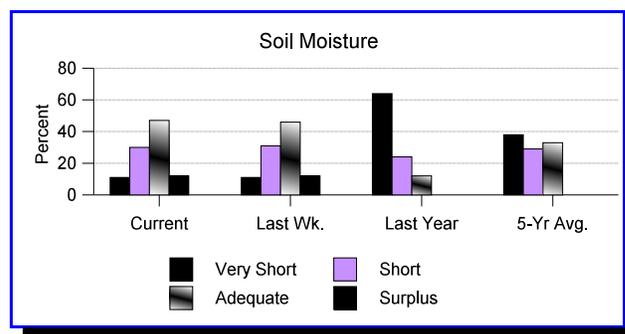
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	—	1	24	65	10
Apples	10	50	40	—	—
Chile	—	—	13	72	15
Corn	—	—	15	64	21
Cotton	—	1	27	65	7
Peanuts	—	—	50	50	—
Pecans	—	—	20	72	8
Sorghum (All)	—	2	40	50	8
Cattle	—	3	36	48	13
Sheep	2	8	65	19	6
Range/Pasture	8	22	36	21	13



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	32	52	13	3
Northeast	–	13	75	12
Southwest	30	30	40	--
Southeast	9	42	29	20
State Current	11	30	47	12
State-Last Wk.	11	31	46	12
State-Last Year	64	24	12	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	38	29	33	--



WEATHER SUMMARY

Clouds, scattered showers, and thunderstorms helped keep temperatures a few degrees below normal over most of New Mexico. The statewide average was between 3 and 4 degrees below normal. Extremes ranged from 35 degrees at Red River on the 16th and 17th to 95 degrees at Carlsbad on the 22nd. Most locations measured some rainfall during the week. Silver City reported 2.48 inches for the greatest amount, while Johnson Ranch, Los Alamos, Ration, Tucumcari, Clovis and Animas all measured at least an inch.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS AUGUST 16 - 22, 2004

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	08/16 08/22	08/01 08/22	Normal Aug	01/01 08/22	Normal Jan-Aug
Carlsbad	75.2	95.0	60.0	0.31	0.38	2.25	12.70	7.99
Tatum	71.4	93.0	56.0	0.38	1.62	2.48	14.43	11.17
Roswell	74.4	92.0	59.0	0.05	1.00	2.03	10.21	8.77
Clayton	67.1	83.0	54.0	0.42	5.64	2.61	19.05	11.61
Clovis	69.7	88.0	57.0	1.31	1.41	3.17	15.66	12.74
Roy	65.3	81.0	54.0	0.15	1.59	2.81	13.64	11.84
Tucumcari	71.7	90.0	58.0	1.09	3.59	2.41	14.14	10.98
Chama	58.6	80.0	42.0	0.49	1.27	2.82	9.84	13.90
Johnson Ranch	62.5	80.0	43.0	1.26	1.96	2.29	9.30	7.72
Capulin	60.1	77.0	39.0	0.70	4.61	2.56	15.69	13.08
Las Vegas	60.7	79.0	45.0	0.97	3.73	4.27	14.88	13.87
Los Alamos	61.3	75.0	48.0	1.00	1.79	3.52	11.99	13.18
Raton	62.6	81.0	47.0	1.07	5.93	3.21	18.54	13.03
Santa Fe	64.9	82.0	48.0	0.36	1.32	2.39	6.88	10.03
Red River	54.1	72.0	35.0	0.85	1.61	3.10	15.77	15.03
Farmington	71.7	89.0	53.0	0.06	0.12	1.05	4.21	5.36
Gallup	64.3	83.0	47.0	0.21	0.40	2.26	4.38	8.36
Grants	62.1	80.0	44.0	0.76	1.78	2.16	5.06	6.95
Silver City	64.7	81.0	50.0	2.48	4.03	3.09	12.45	10.64
Quemado	58.9	77.0	39.0	0.75	3.58	3.12	7.52	9.68
Albuquerque	71.9	87.0	57.0	0.02	0.26	1.64	8.00	6.06
Carrizozo	67.3	83.0	53.0	0.17	2.38	2.69	6.50	8.24
Gran Quivera	65.0	82.0	50.0	0.21	2.83	3.27	9.69	10.79
Moriarty	62.9	85.0	41.0	0.01	0.38	2.69	8.85	9.06
Ruidoso	59.9	76.0	46.0	0.48	6.23	4.04	14.09	15.03
Socorro	68.8	87.0	52.0	0.38	1.55	1.90	7.07	5.84
Alamogordo	73.3	90.0	58.0	0.24	1.66	2.41	6.02	7.92
Animas	71.3	89.0	58.0	1.13	3.19	2.34	8.90	7.08
Deming	72.4	91.0	57.0	0.80	1.72	2.05	7.90	6.48
T or C	71.6	90.0	59.0	0.58	1.24	2.15	6.12	6.59
Las Cruces	74.3	92.0	60.0	0.71	2.94	2.29	8.25	5.92

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

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

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in New Mexico feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 127,000 on August 1, 2004, an increase of 3,000 head over the July 1st total of 124,000. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 22,000 head, while 17,000 head were marketed. Other disappearance totaled 2,000 head.

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 9.85 million head on August 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2003 but 3 percent below August 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.72 million, 14 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.93 million, 15 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 3 percent below 2003 but 29 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/}		
	8/1/03	7/1/04	8/1/04	-----DURING-----								
				7/03	6/04	7/04	7/03	6/04	7/04	7/03	6/04	7/04
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	271	295	294	32	31	32	26	28	31	1	2	2
CA	485	520	520	66	69	65	67	62	60	4	7	5
CO	860	940	880	175	*145	150	200	*205	205	5	10	5
ID	240	240	235	56	47	43	70	60	47	1	2	1
IA	295	390	380	56	50	52	70	59	60	1	1	2
KS	2,180	2,090	2,120	570	400	520	540	540	475	10	20	15
NE	1,570	1,850	1,750	350	285	310	460	435	405	10	10	5
NM	116	124	127	21	26	22	17	19	17	3	1	2
OK	335	315	315	75	52	61	85	64	59	5	3	2
SD	148	173	157	21	20	12	38	34	26	2	1	2
TX	2,690	2,760	2,670	475	455	395	590	495	470	15	10	15
WA	170	150	150	50	34	29	39	38	28	1	1	1
Oth Sts	230	270	255	50	30	29	68	43	43	2	2	1
US	9,590	10,179	9,853	1,997	*1,644	1,720	2,270	*2,082	1,926	60	70	58

* - Revised. ^{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.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: NM-AZ: There were 24,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 33% from last July. Average hours worked by all hired workers dropped to 45.0 hours a week compared to 47.7 hours one year ago. Wage rates for field workers were up from last July at \$7.45 an hour, an increase of 34 cents. Livestock worker wages dropped to \$8.24, compared to \$8.41 an hour during July 2003. Overall, average wage rates improved from last year's wages of \$8.07 an hour to \$8.34 an hour.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nations farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 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 340,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.57 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
 Selected Regions and U.S., July 2003-2004 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Jul 6-12 2003	Jul 11-17 2004	Jul 6-12 2003	Jul 11-17 2004	Jul 6-12 2003	Jul 11-17 2004	Jul 6-12 2003	Jul 11-17 2004
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	24	23	18	24	61	68	943	953
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	44.5	41.1	47.7	45.0	38.2	37.8	39.8	39.3
Wages By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	7.86	8.63	7.11	7.45	7.62	7.59	8.17	8.42
Livestock	8.62	9.39	8.41	8.24	7.58	8.18	8.57	8.75
Field & Livestock	8.06	8.90	7.55	7.73	7.60	7.81	8.26	8.50
All Workers	8.56	9.47	8.07	8.34	8.15	8.58	8.88	9.10

^{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.