

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - NOVEMBER 1, 2004**

Crop Weather      Agricultural Prices      Monthly NASS Newsletter

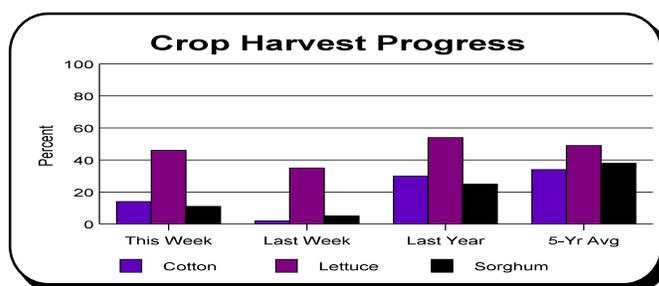
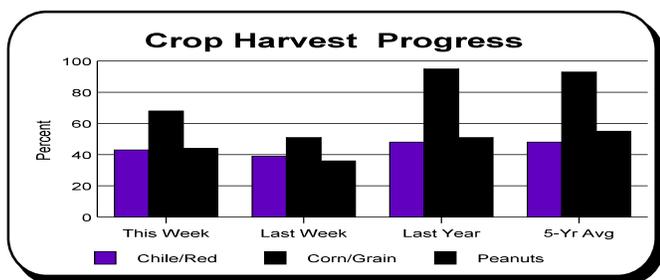
Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov/nm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nm) OR by e-mail [nass-nm@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nm@nass.usda.gov) (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

**CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2004**

**NEW MEXICO:** There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Farmers spent the week harvesting chile, corn, cotton, hay, peanuts, and sorghum as the irrigation season finished. Alfalfa conditions were reported as 7% very poor, 21% poor, 25% fair, 41% good and 6% excellent. Wet conditions slowed harvest and many will not get a 7<sup>th</sup> cutting with the 6<sup>th</sup> cutting at 84% complete and the 7<sup>th</sup> at 30% complete. Red chile harvest continued with 43 percent harvested to date. Cotton conditions declined slightly as rains caused some cotton to be strung out and bolls were slow to open in some fields. Cotton harvest was reported at 14% compared to the 5 year average of 34%. Corn harvest was well underway with 68% of the crop harvested. Sorghum conditions were reported as 1% poor, 44% fair, 52% good and 3% excellent. Sorghum mature was reported at 44% and 11% harvested by week's end. Peanut harvest continued with 44% of the crop harvested. Lettuce harvest was ongoing with 46% of the crop harvested. Wheat was in fair to good condition with some replanting. Ranchers were shipping livestock, mending fences, and moving cattle from summer pastures during the week. Cattle conditions were reported as 7% poor, 31% fair, 58% good and 4% excellent. Sheep conditions were at 9% poor, 33% fair, 53% good and 5% excellent. Pasture conditions were reported at 6% very poor, 14% poor, 38% fair, 39% good, and 3% excellent.

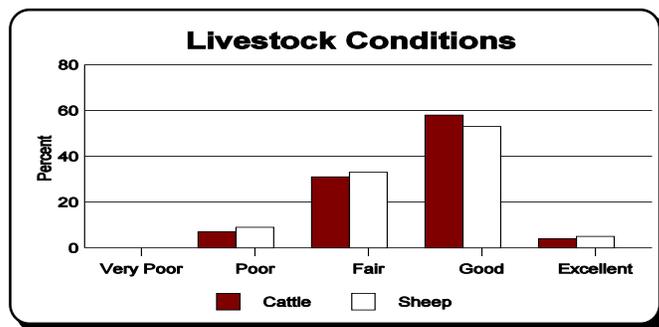
**CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS**

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
<b>CHILE</b>	Harvested-Red	43	39	48	48
<b>CORN</b>	Harvested-Grain	68	51	95	93
<b>COTTON</b>	Harvested	14	2	30	34
<b>LETTUCE</b>	Harvested	46	35	54	49
<b>PEANUTS</b>	Harvested	44	36	51	55
<b>SORGHUM (All)</b>	Mature	44	32	63	90
<b>SORGHUM (All)</b>	Harvested	11	5	25	38
<b>WHEAT (All)</b>	Emerged	98	96	92	96



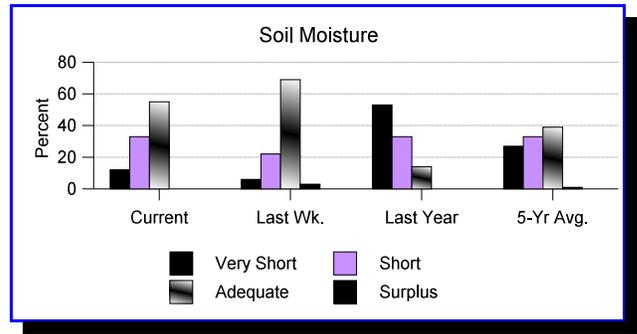
**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES**

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	7	21	25	41	6
Chile	--	9	24	56	11
Cotton	3	11	47	38	1
Lettuce	--	--	--	20	80
Onions	--	--	40	60	--
Peanuts	--	--	33	62	5
Pecans	--	16	25	32	27
Sorghum	--	1	44	52	3
Wheat	--	3	28	68	1
Cattle	--	7	31	58	4
Sheep	--	9	33	53	5
Range/Pasture	6	14	38	39	3



**SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	14	52	34	--
Northeast	13	25	62	--
Southwest	15	65	20	--
Southeast	8	25	67	--
<b>State Current</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>--</b>
State-Last Wk.	6	22	69	3
State-Last Year	53	33	14	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	27	33	39	1



**WEATHER SUMMARY**

A somewhat mixed bag of fall weather during the week brought scattered showers to just about all locations with the southwest areas receiving nearly an inch while the northern and central mountains averaged near one half inch from mix of snow and rain. Temperatures reflected the variable weather with the southwest and southeast counties running 2 to 4 degrees warmer than normal, while northern districts were cool at 2-4 degrees below normal.

**NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS OCTOBER 25 - 31, 2004**

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	10/25 10/31	10/01 10/31	Normal Oct	01/01 10/31	Normal Jan-Oct
Carlsbad	63.9	82	40	0.00	0.67	1.05	16.88	11.79
Tatum	61.4	78	38	T	3.52	1.49	31.35	15.02
Roswell	60.8	79	37	0.10	1.02	1.19	17.84	11.83
Clayton	53.5	74	29	T	0.40	0.90	24.44	14.28
Clovis	58.0	75	41	0.21	2.16	1.34	20.14	16.24
Roy	49.8	67	28	0.00	1.41	1.05	18.13	14.79
Tucumcari	56.3	76	30	0.06	1.93	0.94	18.11	13.39
Chama	38.1	57	17	0.54	1.14	1.96	13.89	18.09
Johnson Ranch	43.9	63	20	0.07	0.58	1.11	11.20	10.16
Capulin	45.9	67	19	0.00	0.67	0.97	21.46	16.27
Las Vegas	--	--	--	0.00	2.51	1.51	20.16	17.78
Los Alamos	--	--	--	0.00	1.55	1.32	15.74	16.62
Raton	46.8	71	19	T	1.28	0.97	24.29	15.61
Santa Fe	48.0	64	28	0.26	2.22	1.04	10.81	12.58
Red River	38.3	55	17	0.77	2.34	1.46	20.66	18.15
Farmington	47.8	69	26	0.38	0.76	0.85	7.61	7.18
Gallup	44.6	65	20	0.21	0.37	1.29	5.95	10.96
Grants	44.9	66	19	0.09	0.26	1.05	7.63	9.56
Silver City	53.2	68	31	1.33	2.19	1.16	21.74	14.02
Quemado	47.2	66	17	0.18	1.07	1.18	9.70	12.59
Albuquerque	52.9	68	33	0.23	1.13	0.89	10.13	7.95
Carrizozo	52.0	69	23	0.41	1.03	1.19	9.79	11.31
Gran Quivera	49.2	64	30	0.65	2.98	1.27	15.23	14.01
Moriarty	46.6	68	18	0.17	1.76	1.10	12.31	11.77
Ruidoso	48.9	65	28	0.33	2.29	1.31	20.89	18.84
Socorro	53.1	71	28	0.85	1.61	1.11	8.82	8.48
Alamogordo	59.6	72	45	0.70	1.42	1.30	10.18	11.21
Animas	59.4	76	37	1.12	1.12	1.15	12.49	9.91
Deming	56.6	75	34	0.42	0.57	0.98	9.09	9.09
T or C	56.1	71	38	0.21	0.77	0.95	7.24	8.62
Las Cruces	58.3	76	41	0.57	1.16	0.91	11.34	8.19

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

## AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

**NEW MEXICO:** Alfalfa prices for October in New Mexico averaged \$120.00 per ton, an increase of \$2.00 over the previous month's price of \$118.00 per ton. All hay prices also increased from the September price of \$115.00 per ton to \$117.00 per ton. Cow prices for the month dropped by \$2.20 from the September 2004 price of \$54.60 per hundredweight to \$52.40 per hundredweight in October. This still remains above the U.S. average price of \$50.40 per hundredweight. Calf prices saw a decrease of \$2.00 from the September price of \$126.00 per hundredweight to \$124.00 per hundredweight in October. Steer and heifer prices remained steady in the state at \$111.00 per hundredweight while remaining \$19.90 above the national average of \$91.10 per hundredweight. Calf prices for October were \$3.00 below the national average of \$127.00 per hundredweight and \$2.00 below the previous month's price. Milk cow replacement for the state were \$1,670 per head, well above the previous year's price of \$1,430 per head. Milk prices were \$0.80 higher than previous month's price and were consistent with the national average price of \$15.50 per hundredweight.

**Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, September 2003 and October 2003-04**

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S.
		Oct. 2003 <sup>2/</sup>	Sept. 2004 <sup>2/</sup>	Oct. 2004 <sup>1/</sup>	Oct. <sup>1/</sup>
-----Dollars-----					
<b>CROPS</b>					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.06
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.477
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	4.74
Hay, all baled	Ton	130.00	115.00	117.00	89.80
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	133.00	118.00	120.00	97.80
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.194
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	1.89
Wheat, all	Bu.	-	-	-	3.38
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>					
Sheep <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	41.80
Lambs <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	101.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	54.60	52.40	50.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	95.60	111.00	111.00	91.10
Calves	Cwt.	109.00	126.00	124.00	127.00
Milk Cow Replacement <sup>4/</sup>	Head	1,430	--	1,670	1,640
Milk	Milk	14.40	14.70	15.50	15.50

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month <sup>2/</sup> Entire month <sup>3/</sup> September - entire month <sup>4/</sup> Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

### NASS MONTHLY AG NEWSLETTER September 2004

**Wheat.** All wheat production is forecast at 2.12 billion bushels, 9% below 2003. The World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) projected 2004/05 ending stocks are unchanged from last month as no changes are made to supplies or usage. The projected price range for 2004/05 is \$3.00 to \$3.50 per bushel compared to \$3.40 for the 2003 crop.

**Corn.** The September forecast for 2004 corn production is 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from the August forecast

and 8% above last year. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushels from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be the largest on record. WAOB projected U.S. ending stocks for 2004/05 are expected to be up 77 million bushels from last month because of a higher production forecast and increased beginning stocks due to a reduction in 2003/04 exports. The projected 2004/05 price range for corn is \$2.00 to \$2.40 per bushel compared to \$2.40 for the 2003 crop.

**Cotton:** The September U.S. cotton production is forecast at 20.9 million 480-pound bales, up 4% from last month and 14% above last year's production. Yield is expected to average 758 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from last month and 28 pounds from 2003. WAOB projections include lower beginning stocks and higher exports compared with last month. Domestic mill use is raised 200,000 bales in both 2003/04 and 2004/05 to reflect additional mill use not included in previous Census reports. Ending stocks are increased to 6.1 million bales, up 200,000 bales from last month.

**Other Crops: Grain Sorghum** is forecast at 472 million bushels, up 2% from last month and up 15% from 2003. The **peanut crop**, at 4.44 billion pounds, is up 3% from last month and up 7% from last year.

**Cattle:** Mid-September **prices** for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged \$83 per cwt, down \$3 from mid-August. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were \$115 per cwt, down \$3 from a month ago.

**Other:** August **milk production** was up 1.5% from the previous year. Production per cow was up 1.5% from last year, and the number of cows decreased 0.1% from a year ago. The **cheddar cheese price** (U.S. 40 pound blocks, wholesale) was up the first two weeks of September. Total **cheese** production reported for the month of July 2004 was 1.5% below the previous year. **Butter** production during this same time period was 14.3% above the previous July. **Nonfat dry milk** production was up 5.1% from the previous year. US table **egg production** during August 2004

totaled 6.43 billion, up 2% from August 2003. Wholesale market **egg prices** for the third quarter of 2004 (Grade A large, New York) are expected to average 65-66 cents per dozen, compared with 89.9 cents a year ago. Fourth quarter 2004 egg prices are expected to average 73-77 cents per dozen, compared with 110.7 cents a year earlier. **Broiler-Type** chicks hatched during August 2004 totaled 810 million, up 3% from last year. Weekly Broiler-Type Placements in 19 selected states for the week ending September 18, 2004, were 173 million, up 4% from a year ago. Cumulative placements for the 19 selected states for the period December 28, 2003 - September 18, 2004 totaled 6.56 billion, up 2% from the 6.41 billion chicks placed for the same period a year ago. The wholesale 12-city average price for whole **broilers** for the third quarter of 2004 is expected to be 75-76 cents, compared with 63.4 cents from the second quarter of last year. Fourth quarter 2004 broiler prices are expected to average 73-77 cents per pound, compared with the 64.6 cents for a year earlier. Turkey Poults Placements in August 2004, at 23.7 million, were down 2% from last August. Cumulative placements for the 2004 marketing year are 282 million poults, down 4% from a year ago. Prices (8-16 lb. hens, Eastern Region) for the third quarter of 2004 are expected to be 73-74 cents compared with 59.1 cents for the third quarter last year. Turkey prices for the fourth quarter of 2004 are expected to average 74-78 cents per pound, compared with the 67.4 cents average for the third quarter of 2004. **Supplies in refrigerated warehouses** at the end of August 2004 compared with a year earlier were: total chicken, up 18%; turkey, down 17%; pork, down 10%; bellies, down 16%; beef, up 21%; frozen orange juice, up 17%; butter, down 36% and American cheese, up 5%.