



# Weekly Ag Update

USDA/NASS  
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - MARCH 6, 2006

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Available on the Internet: [www.nass.usda.gov/nm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nm) , or by e-mail (1-800-530-8810 for information)

## WEATHER SUMMARY

It was another warm, relatively dry week in New Mexico, with temperatures averaging about 8 degrees above normal for the state. A weak storm system brushed across the state Wednesday and Thursday, leaving some spotty, light precipitation. All reported totals were less than a tenth of an inch except at Farmington, where the storm was more generous and left .31 inches of moisture.

### NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 27- MARCH 5, 2006

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	02/27 03/05	01/01 03/05	Normal Mar	01/01 03/05	Normal Jan-Mar
Farmington	47.6	68	20	0.31	0.31	0.81	0.71	1.97
Gallup	43.3	66	13	0.06	0.06	1.05	0.44	2.59
Capulin	44.1	67	23	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.36	1.85
Chama	39.9	58	18	0.02	0.02	1.99	1.10	5.34
Johnson Ranch	40.9	65	11	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.06	1.98
Las Vegas	48.6	72	24	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.03	1.71
Los Alamos	46.4	66	23	0.02	0.00	1.22	0.19	2.88
Raton	46.9	70	21	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.22	1.84
Red River	37.9	56	18	0.00	0.00	1.78	0.78	4.07
Santa Fe	46.6	70	19	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.04	2.06
Clayton	52.1	80	29	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.06	1.10
Clovis	55.9	82	35	0.03	0.03	0.59	0.10	1.49
Roy	49.1	75	29	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.06	1.32
Tucumcari	54.6	85	21	0.08	0.08	0.40	0.15	1.13
Grants	43.6	71	11	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.20	1.50
Quemado	44.1	69	18	0.01	0.01	0.80	0.67	2.35
Albuquerque	54.4	73	34	0.01	0.01	0.54	0.05	1.44
Carrizozo	52.1	75	30	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.10	1.74
Socorro	53.9	82	25	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.02	1.05
Gran Quivera	51.6	71	27	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	2.24
Moriarty	46.1	71	12	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.04	1.44
Ruidoso	47.0	70	19	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.47	3.61
Carlsbad	62.9	88	36	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	1.00
Roswell	56.9	88	30	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.05	1.34
Tatum	56.9	84	33	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.20	1.41
Alamogordo	62.2	77	46	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.33	1.67
Animas	58.7	78	35	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.23	1.66
Deming	57.1	80	27	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.58	1.36
Las Cruces	60.6	82	38	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.18	1.05
T or C	58.5	79	35	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.08	1.18

(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 hay prices for February remained steady from the previous month at \$125.00 per ton. All Hay prices also were unchanged and remained at \$123.00 per ton. Cow prices were \$0.10 below the national average coming in at \$48.40 per hundredweight. The February cow price was \$1.70 higher than the January price. Steer and heifer prices for February were \$108.00 per hundredweight, dropping \$6.00 from the previous month but remaining \$9.90 above the national average of \$98.10. Calf prices increased from the January price by \$3.00 to \$135.00 per hundredweight, but remained below the national average of \$142.00. Milk prices for the state averaged \$13.00 per hundredweight compared to \$13.80 for the national average.

**Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, January 2006 and February 2005-06**

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S. <sup>1/</sup>
		Feb. 2005 <sup>2/</sup>	Jan. 2006 <sup>2/</sup>	Feb. 2006 <sup>1/</sup>	Feb.
-----Dollars-----					
<b>CROPS</b>					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.27
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.483
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	6.97
Hay, all baled	Ton	120.00	123.00	123.00	95.00
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	123.00	125.00	125.00	99.20
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.182
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	2.01
Wheat, All	Bu.	-	-	-	3.66
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>					
Sheep <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	47.70
Lambs <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	96.10
Cows	Cwt.	55.70	46.70	48.40	48.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	106.00	114.00	108.00	98.10
Calves	Cwt.	127.00	132.00	135.00	142.00
Milk	Cwt.	14.90	13.70	13.00	13.80

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month    <sup>2/</sup> Entire month    <sup>3/</sup> January - entire month

## HONEY

**NEW MEXICO:** Honey production from producers with five or more colonies totaled 343,000 pounds from 7,000 colonies in 2005, for a yield of 49 pounds per colony. This compares to 352,000 pounds from 8,000 colonies in 2004. The 2005 average price was \$1.02 per pound for a total value of production of \$350,000. Stocks on hand on December 15<sup>th</sup> totaled 113,000 pounds, down 11 percent from last year.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value, Selected States and U.S., 2005 <sup>1/</sup>**

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 <sup>2/</sup>	Average Price Per Pound <sup>3/</sup>	Value of Production
	-----1,000-----	---Pounds---	-----1,000	Pounds-----	----Cents----	----1,000 Dollars----
AL	13	66	858	266	128	1,098
AZ	36	50	1,800	720	97	1,746
AR	36	69	2,484	571	95	2,360
CA	400	75	30,000	9,300	84	25,200
CO	26	70	1,820	837	104	1,893
FL	160	86	13,760	2,477	87	11,971
GA	59	49	2,891	434	84	2,428
HI	9	131	1,179	283	134	1,580
ID	95	37	3,515	1,793	80	2,812
IL	8	85	680	408	162	1,102
IN	8	64	512	189	119	609
IA	28	88	2,464	1,232	98	2,415
KS	16	50	800	328	124	992
KY	5	50	250	40	212	530
LA	35	97	3,395	611	71	2,410
ME	8	26	208	193	187	389
MI	65	68	4,420	2,519	99	4,376
MN	120	74	8,880	1,598	83	7,370
MS	16	80	1,280	346	66	845
MO	15	50	750	180	121	908
MT	130	67	8,710	3,136	80	6,968
NE	40	68	2,720	2,530	89	2,421
NV	12	46	552	442	209	1,154
NJ	12	32	384	104	118	453
<b>NM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>350</b>
NY	60	73	4,380	2,321	122	5,344
NC	10	54	540	146	194	1,048
ND	370	91	33,670	8,418	81	27,273
OH	15	69	1,035	580	141	1,459
OR	39	42	1,638	557	108	1,769
PA	28	56	1,568	800	105	1,646
SD	220	79	17,380	11,818	76	13,209
TN	7	55	385	92	164	631
TX	84	71	5,964	954	85	5,069
UT	23	45	1,035	331	103	1,066
VT	6	91	546	169	106	579
VA	8	37	296	59	221	654
WA	51	55	2,805	1,935	106	2,973
WV	8	51	408	102	124	506
WI	64	83	5,312	2,922	114	6,056
WY	40	56	2,240	291	87	1,949
Other States <sup>4/ 5/</sup>	18	44	786	261	278	2,184
<b>U.S. <sup>5/</sup></b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>174,643</b>	<b>62,406</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>157,795</b>

<sup>1/</sup> For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each State. <sup>2/</sup> Stocks held by producers. <sup>3/</sup> Prices weighted by sales. <sup>4/</sup> CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. <sup>5/</sup> Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

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FEBRUARY 2006

The following estimates, forecasts, and projections are mainly taken from recent publications of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the USDA.

**Corn.** U.S. corn ending stocks for the 2005/06 marketing year are forecast by World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) to total 2.40 billion bushels, down 25 million bushels from the previous forecast, but 287 million bushels above the 2004/05 marketing year. No changes were made to projected feed and residual use or exports, but projected use of corn to produce ethanol was up 25 million bushels from last month. The average price for the 2005 crop is expected to be between \$1.75 and \$2.05 per bushel, unchanged from last month.

**Wheat.** U.S. wheat ending stocks for the 2005/06 marketing year are forecast by WAOB to total 542 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month. No changes were made to projected imports, domestic use, or exports. The average price for the 2005 crop is expected to be between \$3.35 and \$3.45 per bushel.

**Cattle.** Mid-February **prices** for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged \$89 per cwt, down \$3 from mid-January. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were roughly \$107 per cwt, down \$4 from a month ago.

**Hogs.** For the first two weeks of February, hog **slaughter** was running 1.1% above a year ago. Cash **prices** at mid-January (Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct, 51-52 percent lean) averaged \$44 per cwt, up \$7 from the mid-December price. First quarter prices are expected to average \$43 per cwt.

**Other.** January **milk production** was up 5.4% from the previous year. Production per cow increased 4.1%, while the number of cows increased 1.3% from a year earlier. The **cheddar cheese price** (U.S. 40 pound blocks, wholesale) was down the first two weeks of February. Total **cheese** production reported for the month of December 2005 was 2.2% above the previous year. **Butter** production during this same time period was 5.9% above last year. Production of **nonfat dry milk for human food** was up 10.2% from December 2004. US table **egg production** during December 2005 totaled 6.70 billion, up 1% from December 2004. Wholesale market **egg prices** for the first quarter of 2006 (Grade A large, New York) are expected to average 69-71 cents per dozen, compared with 64.5 cents a year ago. **Broiler**-Type chicks hatched during December 2005 totaled 808 million, up 2% from last year. Weekly Broiler-Type Placements in 19 selected states for the week ending February 11, 2006, were 176 million, up slightly from a year ago. Cumulative placements for the 19 selected states for the period January 1, 2006 - February 11, 2006 totaled 1.05 billion, up 1% from chicks placed for the same period a year ago. The wholesale 12-city average price for whole **broilers** for the first quarter 2006 is expected to average 64-66 cents per pound, compared with the 71.9 cents a year earlier. **Turkey** poult placements in January 2006, at 24.4 million, were up 11% from January 2005. Cumulative placements for the 2006 marketing year are 114.0 million poult, up 5% from a year ago. Turkey prices (8-16 lb. hens, Eastern Region) for the first quarter of 2006 are expected to average 66-68 cents per pound, compared with the 65.9 cents average for the first quarter of 2005. **Supplies in refrigerated warehouses** at the end of January 2006 compared with a year earlier were: total chicken, up 46%; turkey, down 21%; pork, up 6%; bellies, down 3%; beef, up 1%; frozen orange juice, down 32%; butter, up 48% and American cheese, up 9%.