



# WEEKLY CROP & WEATHER

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USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE – MARCH 16, 2009

### Crop Weather

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

### CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 15, 2009

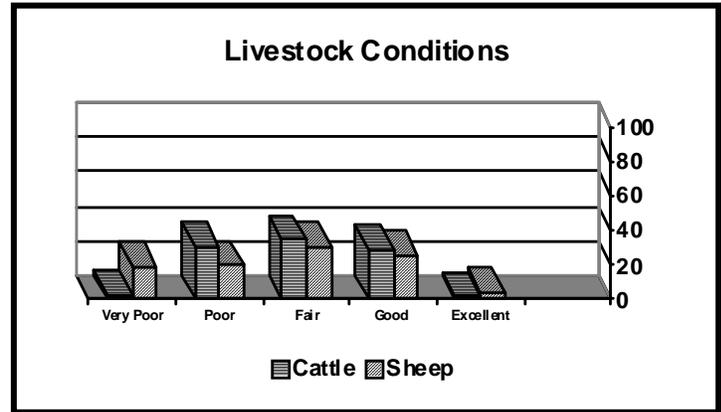
**NEW MEXICO:** Alfalfa was 6% poor, 48% fair and 46% good. Winter wheat was 20% very poor, 40% poor, 21% fair, 16% good, and 3% excellent with 52% grazed. Lettuce was 26% fair, 30% good and 44% excellent. Chile was 9% planted. Onion was 29% fair, 34% good and 37% excellent with 92% planted. Cattle were 3% very poor, 31% poor, 35% fair, 29% good, and 2% excellent. Sheep were 19% very poor, 20% poor, 31% fair, 26% good, and 4% excellent. Range and pasture were 11% very poor, 34% poor, 38% fair, 16% good, 1% excellent. Many farmers are in full swing preparing fields for planting. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Topsoil moisture was 46% very short, 43% short and 11% adequate. Wind damage was 13% light, 5% moderate and 1% severe. Freeze damage was 18% light, 4% moderate and 1% severe. Hail damage was 3% light. Temperatures across the state averaged out to be near normal for the week while most of the state saw at least a little precipitation. Several sites recorded nearly a half an inch of precipitation for the week.

### CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
<b>CHILE</b>	Planted	9	4	6	11
<b>WHEAT</b>	Grazed	52	52	15	22
<b>ONIONS</b>	Planted	92	70	88	91

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	---	6	48	46	---
Chile	---	---	100	---	---
Lettuce	---	---	26	30	44
Onions	---	---	29	34	37
Wheat (All)	20	40	21	16	3
Cattle	3	31	35	29	2
Sheep	19	20	31	26	4
Range/Pasture	11	34	38	16	1

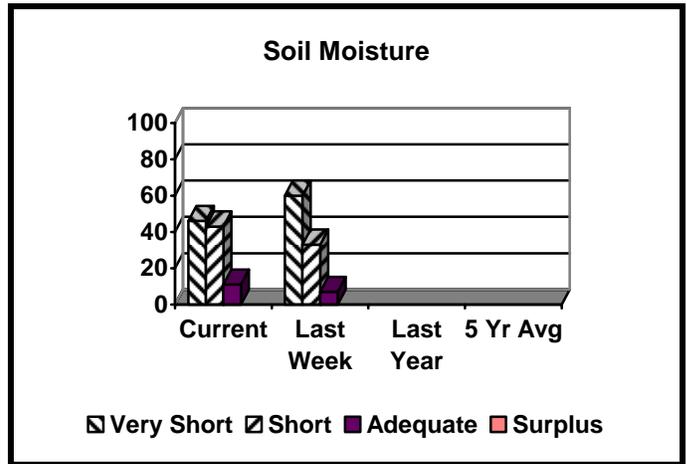


#### Additional Comments:

In **Cibola** dry conditions continued to exist across the county as well as supplemental feeding for livestock. Ranchers were doctoring steers and checking cows and heifers for breeding. Alfalfa was beginning to green up and irrigation starting to be applied. Gopher control was ongoing. There was some ground beginning to be turned. **Rio Arriba** has had good rain and snow mix. **Santa Fe** has had extremely dry conditions going into the grazing season. Heavy winds mean for even dryer conditions, increased fire dangers and deteriorating rangelands. **Valencia** has experienced soaking rains across most of the county. **Curry** has had extremely windy and dry conditions until Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> when rain and snow arrived. **De Baca** has had light moisture the latter part of the reporting week and some wet snow. Should help to settle dust and decrease wind damage to top soil. Ranchers were supplemental feeding cattle. Irrigation water has been adequate for watering alfalfa and wheat crops. **Guadalupe** has had some scattered moisture this week, about ¼", which is a good start after a very dry winter. **Roosevelt** has had extremely dry conditions. **Catron and Socorro** has had normal activities and weather conditions for this time of year. It is still very dry. Farmers were doing field preparation, will begin pre-watering soon. Fields were so dry that many producers had to make additional trips across the field to break up soil. Pasture conditions are extremely dry with supplemental protein needed. In **Sierra** farmers were preparing the soil and starting to irrigate. **Eddy** has had a trace of moisture received in some areas. It has had a very disappointing round of weather. **Lea** has had a lot of heat with high winds.

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	33	45	21	1
Northeast	63	31	6	---
Southwest	23	77	---	---
Southeast	66	18	16	---
State Current	46	43	11	---
State-Last Week	60	33	7	---
State-Last Year	---	---	---	---
State-5-Yr Avg.	---	---	---	---



WEATHER SUMMARY

TEMPERATURES ACROSS THE STATE AVERAGED OUT TO BE NEAR NORMAL FOR THE WEEK WHILE MOST OF THE STATE SAW AT LEAST A LITTLE PRECIPITATION. SEVERAL SITES RECORDED NEAR A HALF INCH OF PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS – MARCH 9 – 15, 2009

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Week 09-Mar- 15-Mar	Month 01-Mar- 15-Mar	Accum. 01-Jan- 15-Mar	Normal Mar	Normal Jan-Mar
<b>Northwest</b>								
Albuquerque	45.4	61	31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.54	1.44
Chama	33.8	52	11	0.12	0.24	1.94	1.99	5.34
Farmington	41.2	62	20	0.31	0.31	1.29	0.81	1.97
Gallup	39.0	59	12	0.16	0.46	1.49	1.05	2.59
Grants	39.0	58	13	0.57	0.57	0.93	0.50	1.50
Johnson Ranch	37.1	58	15	0.00	0.15	0.19	0.74	1.98
Los Alamos	35.3	52	20	0.43	0.43	0.46	1.22	2.88
Red River	0.0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	4.07
Santa Fe	39.9	60	20	0.15	0.18	0.23	0.74	2.06
<b>Northeast</b>								
Capulin	34.7	58	1	0.49	0.57	1.17	0.89	1.85
Clayton	40.1	67	17	0.15	0.15	0.79	0.55	1.10
Clovis	44.4	67	21	0.20	0.21	0.34	0.59	1.49
Las Vegas	35.6	59	12	0.14	0.14	0.23	0.63	1.71
Moriarty	36.5	59	11	0.06	0.06	0.26	0.53	1.44
Raton	37.7	64	14	0.09	0.33	0.70	0.83	1.84
Roy	41.5	63	11	0.10	0.10	0.23	0.55	1.32
Tucumcari	44.6	69	12	0.00	0.00	1.15	0.40	1.13
<b>Southwest</b>								
Animas	49.9	67	30	0.48	0.48	0.91	0.47	1.66
Deming	50.4	68	30	0.31	0.31	0.58	0.34	1.36
Gran Quivira	42.3	60	19	0.34	0.34	0.54	0.72	2.24
Quemado	37.5	59	16	0.12	0.12	0.99	0.80	2.35
Socorro	47.9	68	24	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.27	1.05
T or C	49.4	67	32	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.34	1.18
<b>Southeast</b>								
Alamogordo	49.3	67	27	0.02	0.64	1.51	0.46	1.67
Carlsbad	50.5	75	29	0.01	0.01	0.15	0.30	1.00
Carrizozo	45.2	63	18	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.57	1.74
Las Cruces	50.4	70	33	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.22	1.05
Roswell	45.4	73	27	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.45	1.34
Ruidoso	40.8	57	19	0.53	0.53	0.83	1.33	3.61
Tatum	45.6	72	27	0.05	0.05	0.17	0.52	1.41

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