



Weekly Ag Update

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Crop Weather Cattle on Feed Poultry Outlook

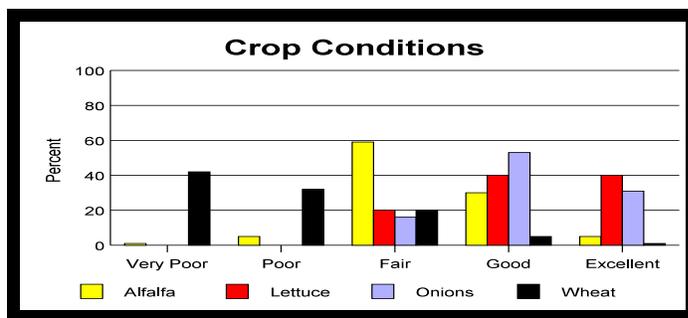
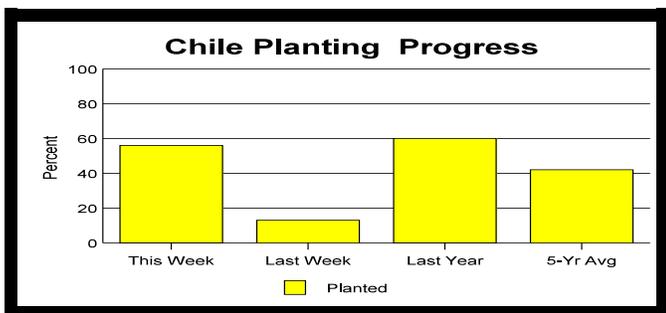
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 26, 2006

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.2 days suitable for field work. Farmers spent the week irrigating, preparing fields, and planting chile. Topsoil moisture was 56% very short, 23% short and 21% adequate. Wind damage was 20% light, 14% moderate, and 6% severe. Freeze damage was 13% light and 6% moderate. Counties in the east and north saw rain, and higher elevations had snow, but for the rest of the state it was another dry, windy week. Alfalfa was in mostly fair to good condition. All winter wheat was 42% very poor, 32% poor, 20% fair, 5% good, and 1% excellent, with 13% of fields being grazed. Lettuce and onions were in fair to excellent condition. Chile made progress with 56% planted compared to 13% the previous week. Ranchers were busy calving and supplementing feed. Grazing is being limited and cattle are being sold off. Cattle were reported as 5% very poor, 12% poor, 43% fair, 38% good, and 2% excellent. Sheep were 7% very poor, 8% poor, 58% fair, 22% good, and 5% excellent. Range and pasture were 17% very poor, 24% poor, 36% fair, 21% good, and 2% excellent.

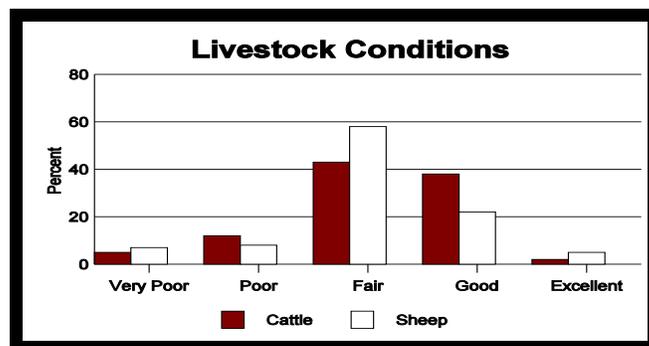
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	56	13	60	42
WHEAT	Grazed	13	8	51	N/A



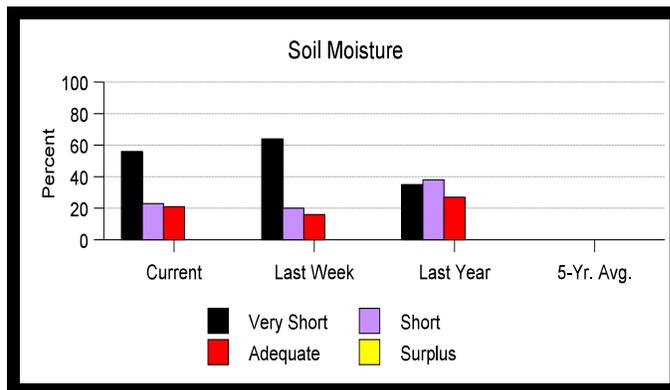
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	5	59	30	5
Lettuce	---	---	20	40	40
Onions	---	---	16	53	31
Wheat (All)	42	32	20	5	1
Cattle	5	12	43	38	2
Sheep	7	8	58	22	5
Range/Pasture	17	24	36	21	2



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	31	37	32	---
Northeast	40	58	2	---
Southwest	20	30	50	---
Southeast	---	50	50	---
State Current	56	23	21	---
State-Last Week	64	20	16	---
State-Last Year	35	38	27	---
State-5-Yr Avg.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



WEATHER SUMMARY

THE FAR NORTH AND PORTIONS OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT PRECIPITATION FROM A SERIES OF STORMS EARLY IN THE WEEK. BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES EARLY IN THE WEEK GAVE WAY TO WARMER AND DRIER CONDITIONS STARTING FRIDAY AND PERSISTING THROUGH THE WEEKEND. MOST OF THE SOUTHWEST AND THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY SAW LITTLE IF ANY PRECIPITATION FOR THE WEEK.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - MARCH 20-26, 2006

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	03/20 03/26	03/01 03/26	Normal Mar	01/01 03/26	Normal Jan-Mar
Farmington	42.8	70	23	0.08	0.68	0.81	1.08	1.97
Gallup	40.9	67	19	0.05	0.64	1.05	1.02	2.59
Capulin	31.3	65	-2	0.32	0.35	0.89	0.71	1.85
Chama	33.4	58	12	0.27	1.01	1.99	2.09	5.34
Johnson Ranch	36.5	64	16	0.07	0.07	0.74	0.13	1.98
Las Vegas	35.9	65	8	0.09	0.09	0.63	0.12	1.71
Los Alamos	37.6	61	21	0.34	0.59	1.22	0.78	2.88
Raton	35.9	67	5	0.17	0.18	0.83	0.40	1.84
Red River	28.2	51	3	1.32	3.12	1.78	3.90	4.07
Santa Fe	40.0	66	21	0.07	0.36	0.74	0.40	2.06
Clayton	36.9	77	15	0.39	0.39	0.55	0.45	1.10
Clovis	42.1	79	21	1.12	1.18	0.59	1.25	1.49
Roy	36.6	69	10	0.05	0.05	0.55	0.11	1.32
Tucumcari	42.6	79	17	0.10	0.18	0.40	0.25	1.13
Grants	41.1	70	15	0.01	0.49	0.50	0.69	1.50
Quemado	38.9	65	9	0.13	0.40	0.80	1.06	2.35
Albuquerque	46.0	70	28	0.02	0.14	0.54	0.18	1.44
Carrizozo	41.9	71	18	0.20	0.35	0.57	0.45	1.74
Socorro	46.8	77	19	0.01	0.01	0.27	0.03	1.05
Gran Quivera	43.1	67	18	0.15	0.17	0.72	0.17	2.24
Moriarty	38.0	68	16	0.10	0.12	0.53	0.16	1.44
Ruidoso	38.2	64	13	0.42	0.63	1.33	1.10	3.61
Carlsbad	47.2	84	27	0.00	1.55	0.30	1.85	1.00
Roswell	44.4	82	23	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.05	1.34
Tatum	39.9	80	21	0.89	0.90	0.52	1.10	1.41
Alamogordo	51.1	75	30	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.33	1.67
Animas	51.0	79	28	0.00	0.15	0.47	0.38	1.66
Deming	50.1	79	24	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.58	1.36
Las Cruces	50.6	78	31	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.18	1.05
T or C	48.8	76	27	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.

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 143,000 head on March 1st 2006. This was down 3,000 head from the February inventory. Placements are on the decline with 13,000 head placed in February. Marketings rose to 14,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous month. Other disappearance held at 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 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.

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

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	3/1/05	2/1/06	3/1/06	-----DURING-----								
				2/05	1/06	2/06	2/05	1/06	2/06	2/05	1/06	2/06
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	324	346	351	23	39	31	24	26	24	3	1	2
CA	515	550	550	49	71	63	54	62	56	5	9	7
CO	1,040	1,110	1,090	175	225	150	185	185	165	10	10	5
ID	250	265	255	33	46	32	52	51	38	1	5	4
IA	465	520	520	57	81	60	55	69	58	2	2	2
KS	2,370	2,580	2,610	360	570	410	390	465	360	20	25	20
NE	2,320	2,490	2,450	315	425	330	330	355	360	15	10	10
NM	125	146	143	13	18	13	14	13	14	3	2	2
OK	340	375	365	48	65	49	56	57	56	2	3	3
SD	210	210	210	32	38	33	26	32	29	1	1	4
TX	2,690	3,030	3,010	340	540	360	360	420	370	10	10	10
WA	185	153	154	32	33	25	35	31	22	2	1	2
Oth Sts	320	335	315	46	48	42	53	44	60	3	4	2
US	11,154	12,110	12,023	1,523	2,199	1,598	1,634	1,810	1,612	77	83	73

^{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.

POULTRY OUTLOOK

March 17, 2006

Broiler Production Higher in January, Production Expected Higher in 2006: Broiler meat production for January 2006 was reported at 3.0 billion pounds, up 5.7 percent from last year. The increase in meat production was a result of both a higher number of broilers being slaughtered (up 3.4 percent) and higher average weights (up 2.4 percent to 5.5 pounds). With the production increase in January and an expected comparable increase in February, the estimated meat production for first-quarter 2006 was increased to 8.9 billion pounds, a 3.6-percent increase from a year earlier.

However, weekly chick placements for growout over the last 5 weeks (February 4 to March 4) averaged 174 million birds, fractionally below same period in 2005, indicating that producers have begun to slow production growth in response to lower prices. Even with slightly lower bird numbers, meat production is expected to increase in the second quarter due to higher average weights at slaughter. The overall broiler meat production estimate for 2006 is now 36.2 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from 2005.

Revisions in the 2005 broiler meat production estimates contained in the *Poultry Slaughter 2005 Annual Summary* produced small changes in the quarterly estimates and raised total 2005 production to 35.4 billion pounds. For 2005, the higher production (up 3.8 percent from 2004) was due to a 1.9-percent increase in the average weight at slaughter and a 1.2-percent increase in the total number of broilers slaughtered.

Over the first 2 months of 2006, the 12-city whole broiler price averaged 63.2 cents per pound, down 11.5 percent from the same period in 2005. Prices for most broiler products have continued to fall compared with fourth quarter 2005 and are considerably lower than in the first 2 months of 2005. Boneless-skinless breast meat prices in the Northeast market averaged \$1.01 per pound during January and February, down 31 percent from last year. Prices for rib-on breasts averaged 63 cents per pound, a decline of 29 percent from same time in 2005. Prices for other broiler products also declined heavily compared with a year earlier. Broiler prices have trended downward over the last several months due to a combination of production increases (up 4.3 percent in fourth quarter 2005) and weaker export demand. These circumstances have pushed prices down and caused cold storage stocks to increase. Leg quarter prices, which fell sharply in fourth-quarter 2005, averaged 23.5 cents per pound during the first 2 months of 2006, down 22 percent from the same period in 2005. Even with broiler meat production increases expected to slow after the first quarter, broiler prices are not expected to strengthen substantially in the first half of 2006, due to high stock levels and an uncertain export situation.