



WEEKLY AG UPDATE

USDA/NASS
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

nass-nm@nass.usda.gov

Issue 57-29

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE – July 16, 2007

Crop Weather Onions Livestock

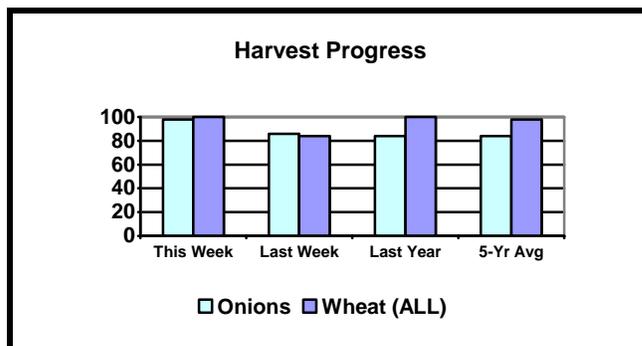
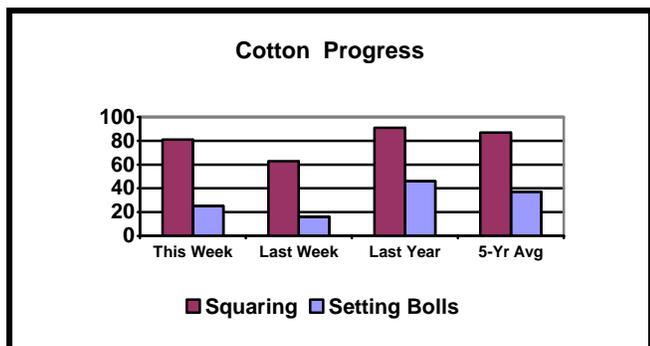
Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm , or by email (1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 15, 2007

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.4 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was 10% very short, 30% short, 58% adequate, 2% surplus. Wind damage was 10% light. Farmers spent the week cutting and baling hay, irrigating and fertilizing crops. Alfalfa was reported as 1% poor, 32% fair, 53% good and 14% excellent with 93% of the second cutting complete and 60% of the third cutting complete. Cotton was reported as 16% poor, 48% fair, 34% good and 2% excellent with 81% squaring and 25% setting bolls. Corn was reported as 1% poor, 38% fair, 56% good and 5% excellent with 35% silked and 1% dough. Irrigated sorghum was reported as 32% fair, 60% good and 8% excellent with 1% headed. Dry sorghum was reported as 54% fair, 42% good and 4% excellent. Total sorghum was reported as 35% fair, 57% good and 8% excellent. Total winter wheat was reported as 100% harvested. Chile was reported as 5% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 43% good and 7% excellent. Onion conditions were reported as 20% poor, 30% fair, 50% good with 98% harvested. Apples were reported as 20% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 25% good and 15% excellent. Pecans were reported as 1% very poor, 6% fair, 28% good and 65% excellent. Peanuts were reported as 3% poor, 78% fair, 17% good, 2% excellent with 55% pegging. Cattle conditions were reported at 1% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 60% good and 27% excellent. Sheep conditions were reported as 7% very poor, 9% poor, 9% fair, 50% good and 25% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were reported as 7% very poor, 6% poor, 28% fair, 51% good and 8% excellent. Ranchers are supplemental feeding and spraying mesquite bushes. Rangeland conditions are improving, but additional moisture is still needed.

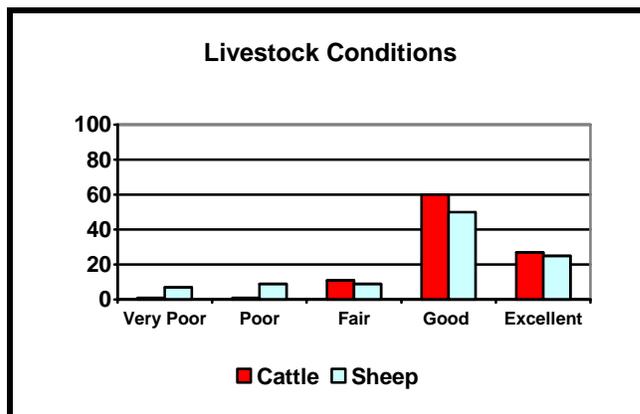
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
COTTON	Squaring	81	63	91	87
COTTON	Setting Bolls	25	16	46	37
ONIONS	Harvested	98	86	84	84
PEANUTS	Pegging	55	35	54	58
WHEAT (ALL)	Harvested	100	84	100	98



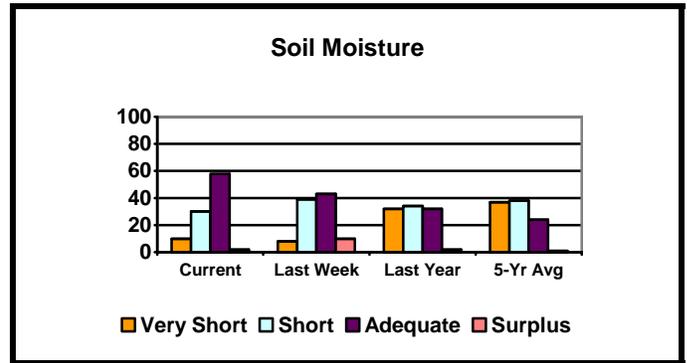
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	---	1	32	53	14
Corn	---	1	38	56	5
Cotton	---	16	48	34	2
Chile	5	13	32	43	7
Pecans	1	---	6	28	65
Onions	---	20	30	50	---
Peanuts	---	3	78	17	2
Sorghum (All)	---	---	45	49	6
Wheat (All)	---	---	40	56	4
Cattle	1	1	11	60	27
Sheep	7	9	9	50	25
Range/Pasture	7	6	28	51	8



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	29	42	29	---
Northeast	3	37	60	---
Southwest	---	20	75	5
Southeast	5	9	80	6
State Current	10	30	58	2
State-Last Week	8	39	43	10
State-Last Year	32	34	32	2
State-5-Yr Avg.	37	38	24	1



WEATHER SUMMARY

The western portion of the state was warm, while the eastern portion was cool. Significant rainfall fell from the central mountain chain East with lighter amounts West especially along I-40. For the week Alamogordo reported 2.87, Las Vegas 3.34, Red River 1.93, Clayton 1.56, and Roswell 1.43. Data for Animas, Carrizozo, and Animas were incomplete.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - JULY 9 – 15, 2007

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	07/09 07/15	07/01 07/15	01/01 07/15	Normal July	Normal Jan-July
Farmington	77.4	97	57	0.44	0.44	5.47	0.94	4.31
Gallup	73.6	95	50	0.02	0.23	4.03	1.91	6.10
Capulin	64.8	85	47	0.67	0.76	12.33	3.25	10.52
Chama	66.6	88	44	0.28	0.46	10.77	2.24	11.08
Johnson Ranch	70.4	92	48	0.25	0.30	3.90	1.66	5.43
Las Vegas	66.4	87	49	3.34	3.56	11.25	3.20	9.60
Los Alamos	69.1	89	50	1.13	1.33	6.61	3.25	9.66
Raton	68.9	90	49	0.15	1.65	6.46	2.66	9.82
Red River	58.6	80	39	1.93	2.66	14.41	3.01	11.93
Santa Fe	73.4	94	55	0.00	0.00	5.13	2.38	7.64
Clayton	74.6	91	59	1.56	1.56	9.61	2.70	9.00
Clovis	75.9	94	60	0.47	0.99	11.71	2.56	9.57
Roy	70.5	90	55	0.75	0.90	8.56	2.97	9.03
Tucumcari	79.4	103	62	0.67	0.67	7.55	3.30	8.57
Grants	73.7	99	47	0.11	0.27	3.69	1.76	4.79
Quemado	69.8	94	49	0.14	0.37	2.33	2.37	6.56
Albuquerque	80.1	97	63	0.03	0.38	4.95	1.37	4.42
Carrizozo	73.3	96	55	0.67	0.88	6.12	2.05	5.55
Socorro	77.6	96	60	0.02	0.78	4.67	1.44	3.94
Gran Quivira	71.6	95	54	1.58	2.02	7.75	2.81	7.52
Moriarty	70.9	93	50	0.00	0.32	6.39	2.38	6.37
Ruidoso	64.6	84	49	1.40	3.19	15.59	4.02	10.99
Carlsbad	80.8	99	63	0.18	0.48	9.86	1.79	5.74
Roswell	76.6	96	61	1.43	1.80	9.93	1.99	6.74
Tatum	76.1	97	60	0.45	1.36	13.60	2.52	8.69
Alamogordo	80.0	98	63	2.87	2.95	5.92	2.23	5.51
Animas	80.0	97	61	0.34	0.45	3.60	2.26	4.74
Deming	81.6	100	65	0.70	0.70	3.90	2.15	4.43
Las Cruces	80.1	100	65	1.04	1.06	5.88	1.36	3.63
T or C	79.1	101	63	0.20	0.20	3.73	1.86	4.44

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

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

ONIONS

NEW MEXICO: Onion growers in New Mexico planted 6,500 acres and expect to harvest 6,300 acres. With 86% of the crop reported harvested, expected yields are reaching 525 hundredweight per acre giving an expected total state production of 3,308,000 hundredweight.

UNITED STATES: Onion growers expect to harvest 159,680 acres of onions in 2007, down 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Spring onion growers harvested 31,500 acres, down 9 percent from last season. Summer, non-storage onion growers expect to harvest 19,900 acres, unchanged from a year ago. Storage onion growers plan to harvest 108,280 acres in 2007, down 2 percent from comparable States last season.

Onions: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield Per Acre, and Production, 2006 and Forecasted 2007^{1/}

Season and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Acres-----				-----1,000 Cwt.-----			
SPRING^{2/}								
AZ	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200	490	450	490	540
CA	8,100	7,700	7,900	7,500	415	420	3,279	3,150
GA	14,000	12,500	10,500	12,000	310	300	3,255	3,600
TX	17,700	12,500	15,200	10,800	270	360	4,104	3,888
TOTAL	40,800	33,900	34,600	31,500	322	355	11,128	11,178
SUMMER NON-STORAGE^{2/}								
CA	9,800	8,900	9,400	8,500	560	530	5,264	4,505
NV	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	720	800	1,872	2,080
NM	6,000	6,500	5,500	6,300	480	525	2,640	3,308
TX	1,000	1,100	900	1,000	240	400	216	400
WA	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	380	380	570	570
TOTAL	20,900	20,600	19,900	19,900	531	546	10,562	10,863
STORAGE^{3/}	113,880	111,480	110,280	108,280	466	---	51,364	---
U.S. - ALL	175,580	165,980	164,780	159,680	443	---	73,054	---

^{1/} Estimates for 2006 revised. ^{2/} Primarily fresh market. ^{3/} Yield and production for 2007 will be published October 4, 2007.

LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK
ERS, USDA, June 19, 2007

Cow Slaughter Runs Counter to Seasonal Patterns: The Midwestern corn and soybean crops are off to a good – if somewhat late – start, with most States reporting crop conditions mainly of Fair to Excellent. Pasture and range conditions are similarly rated, with most regions, except the Southwest, Intermountain West, and Southeast, reporting mostly Good to Excellent conditions. The first hay cutting of the season is well underway in most areas. About one-fifth of the 2007 hay crop is in areas currently experiencing extremely dry conditions. Replenishing hay stocks will take some of the edge off the impacts from dry conditions. Hay stocks on May 1, 2007 were only about 70 percent of stocks on May 1, 2006 and 54 percent of stocks on May 1, 2005.

Commercial beef and dairy cow slaughter continues at much higher levels than expected thus far in the second quarter of 2007, given the January 1, 2007 cow inventory and typical seasonal cow slaughter patterns. Almost 53,000 dairy cows have been slaughtered as a result of the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) fourth herd retirement round. Extremely dry conditions in the Southeast and Southwest also continue to motivate both beef and dairy cow slaughter above seasonal expectations.

Cow slaughter will likely make inroads into January 1, 2008 cow inventories if it continues at current levels. Despite the heavy slaughter, cow prices remain relatively strong, in the low-to mid \$50s, as do prices for 90-percent lean beef, which comes primarily from cull cows and bulls.

Calf slaughter has declined from its peak earlier in 2007, and dressed weights of calves have begun to increase. These changes may be signaling the end of young calf slaughter that was induced by high feed prices and dry conditions.

May 2007 prices for feeder cattle (Oklahoma City, Medium and Large No. 1, 750-800-lb steers) were about 3 percent above May 2006 prices and reflect a weight premium in response to high feed costs due to ethanol demand for corn. Lighter weight feeder cattle prices received support from much-improved pasture and forage conditions and from fed cattle prices that were high enough to allow cattle feeding profits and positive packer margins. In May 2007, lighter weight feeder calves at Oklahoma City were even with or slightly below prices for May 2006.

Seasonally declining spreads between Choice and Select beef cutout values are receiving a boost from relatively tight supplies of market-ready fed cattle of all grades and are currently the biggest positive factor for fed cattle prices.

Based on weekly average data, May 2007 Choice cutout values were about 9 percent above May 2006 values, while May 2007 Select cutout values were 16 percent above the year-earlier values. May 2007 prices for 50- and 90-percent lean processing beef were 58 percent and 15 percent above prices for May 2006.

Average monthly retail Choice beef prices for May 2007, at \$4.30 and up by 9 percent over May 2006 prices, were supported by the retail prices of other meats.

The beef import forecast for the second quarter was unchanged from last month's, despite pressure from higher-than-expected domestic cow slaughter that has remained high through most of this period. Forecast beef exports were raised slightly on improvements in sales to major Asian markets. In late May the World Animal Health Organization designated the United States as having "controlled risk status" for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. This designation reflects the OIE's view that beef produced in the United States is safe for export.