



MONTHLY AG UPDATE – DECEMBER 2008

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USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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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 172,000 head on November 1, 2008, down 1,000 head from the October total of 173,000 head. Placements for October totaled 17,000 head, down 10,000 head from September's total of 27,000. Marketings totaled 17,000 in October, down 3,000 head from the previous month. Other disappearance remained unchanged from September's total of 1,000 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 11.0 million head on November 1, 2008. The inventory was 7 percent below November 1, 2007 and 8 percent below November 1, 2006. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.44 million, 11 percent below 2007 but slightly above

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE – NOVEMBER, 2008

<u>Report</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
Cattle on Feed	November 21, 2008
November Crop Production	December 11, 2008
October Milk Production	November 17, 2008
Cotton Ginnings	December 11, 2008
Weekly Weather & Crop Progress	December 08, 2008
Peanut Prices	December 12, 2008
Agricultural Prices	November 30, 2008

2006. Net placements were 2.37 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 700,000, 600-699 pounds were 615,000, 700-799 pounds were 543,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 580,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.81 million, 3 percent below 2007 but 3 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during October, 43 percent above 2007 but 17 percent below 2006.

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

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	11/1/07	10/1/08	11/1/08	-----DURING-----								
				10/07	9/08	10/08	10/07	9/08	10/08	10/07	9/08	10/08
AZ	360	360	362	39	24	31	27	25	28	2	1	1
CA	545	505	500	67	55	54	60	53	57	2	2	2
CO	1,030	870	960	260	255	245	165	150	150	5	5	5
ID	235	195	210	69	57	55	43	41	39	1	1	1
IA	550	475	485	120	81	104	79	75	93	1	1	1
KS	2,420	2,160	2,230	530	485	450	410	400	360	10	15	20
NE	2,400	2,110	2,310	620	550	590	350	390	375	10	10	15
NM	143	173	172	31	27	17	19	20	17	2	1	1
OK	335	315	320	74	60	75	63	49	68	1	1	2
SD	205	175	200	71	56	70	45	44	43	1	2	2
TX	3,000	2,590	2,710	700	510	630	530	490	495	10	10	15
WA	166	157	163	42	44	38	29	24	31	1	1	1
Oth Sts	380	330	350	102	77	79	56	51	58	1	1	1
US	11,769	10,415	10,972	2,725	2,281	2,438	1,876	1,812	1,814	47	51	67

^{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. * Revised.

DECEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Upland cotton yields are forecast at 1,115 pounds per acre with 34,000 acres expected to be harvested. American-Pima yields are forecast at 800 pounds per acre with producers expecting to harvest 3,000 acres. Pecan production is forecast at 45 million pounds, down 39 percent from 2007's high bearing year in the alternating cycle. Potato yield is forecast at 400 cwt with harvested acreage forecast at 5,800 acres. Dry edible bean production is forecast at 217,000 cwt, up 21 percent from 2007.

UNITED STATES: Upland cotton harvested area, at 7.59 million acres, is unchanged from last month but down 26 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but down 41 percent from last year. Production of fall potatoes for 2008 is forecast at 374 million cwt, up slightly from the November forecast but down 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested, at 921,200 acres, is virtually unchanged from

the November forecast but 8 percent lower than last year. The average yield, forecast at 406 cwt per acre, is down 1 cwt from November's forecast and down 3 cwt from last year's record high yield. U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 25.7 million cwt for 2008, up 2 percent from the October forecast and up 1 percent from 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.50 million acres, up slightly from the October forecast but down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.45 million acres, 2 percent above the October forecast but 2 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,775 pounds per acre, an increase of 1 pound from October's forecast and 59 pounds above the 2007 yield. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the U.S. Pecan production is forecast at 189 million pounds utilized (in-shell basis), down 7 percent from the October 1 forecast and 51 percent from last year's crop.

Area Harvested, Yield, and Production for Selected States and United States, 2007 and Forecasted December 1, 2008

State	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008
				Nov 1	Dec 1		
	----- 1,000 Acres -----		----- Pounds-----			----- 1,000 Cwt-----	
Dry Beans							
NM	7.5	9.3	2,400	---	2,330	180	217
TX	16.2	21.4	1,500	---	1,100	243	235
US	1,478.7	1,448.0	1,716	---	1,775	25,371	25,701
Pecans			----- Pounds -----			----- 1,000 Pound -----	
NM	---	---	---	---	---	74,000	45,000
US	---	---	---	---	---	385,305	189,060
Upland Cotton			----- Pounds -----			----- 1,000 Bales ^{1/} -----	
AZ	168.0	128.0	1,469	1,425	1,500	514.0	400.0
NM	39.0	34.0	1,095	1,115	1,115	89.0	79.0
TX	4,700.0	3,350.0	843	731	731	8,250.0	5,100.0
US	10,201.0	7,585.0	864	827	833	18,355.1	13,169.0
Amer-Pima Cotton							
AZ	2.5	1.0	883	960	960	4.6	2.0
NM	4.6	3.0	856	800	800	8.2	5.0
TX	24.0	15.0	920	1,024	1,184	46.0	37.0
US	288.1	170.0	1,419	1,296	1,254	851.8	444.0
Potatoes			----- Cwt. -----			----- 1,000 Cwt. -----	
CO	61.8	60.9	355	---	374	21,926	22,778
NM	5.4	5.8	370	---	400	1,998	2,320
US	1,129.7	1,046.1	396	---	393	446,807	411,409

^{1/} Production ginned and to be ginned. Yield reported in pounds per acre; production in bales (480 lb. net wt.).

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.5 PERCENT

NEW MEXICO: Milk production in New Mexico during October totaled 641 million pounds compared to 622 million pounds during the same time period in 2007. Milk per cow for the month averaged 1,920 pounds. Number of milk cows on farms was 334,000 head compared to 337,000 head in October 2007.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 14.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from October 2007. September revised production at 14.0

billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from September 2007. The September revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,700 pounds for October, 3 pounds above October 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 105,000 head more than October 2007, and 1,000 head more than September 2008.

Milk Cows and Production: September 2008 ^{1/} and October 2007 - 2008

State	Milk Cows ^{2/}			Milk per Cow ^{3/}			Milk Production ^{3/}		
	10/07	9/08	10/08	10/07	9/08	10/08	10/07	9/08	10/08
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	184	184	185	1,850	1,720	1,845	340	316	341
CA	1,826	1,840	1,839	1,870	1,780	1,840	3,415	3,275	3,384
CO	120	130	130	1,930	1,850	1,855	232	241	245
FL	125	120	119	1,120	1,160	1,200	140	139	143
ID	522	554	554	1,880	1,870	1,880	981	1,036	1,042
IL	103	102	102	1,490	1,425	1,490	153	145	152
IN	166	166	166	1,685	1,550	1,625	280	257	270
IA	215	215	215	1,630	1,630	1,690	350	350	363
KS	108	114	114	1,650	1,670	1,725	178	190	197
KY	87	87	87	1,115	1,010	1,080	97	88	94
MI	341	350	352	1,860	1,770	1,810	634	620	637
MN	463	465	465	1,530	1,490	1,550	708	693	721
MO	109	111	110	1,190	1,100	1,180	130	122	130
NM	337	336	334	1,845	1,880	1,920	622	632	641
NY	626	626	625	1,630	1,590	1,620	1,020	995	1,013
OH	277	278	278	1,470	1,450	1,490	407	403	414
OR	114	114	114	1,545	1,605	1,615	176	183	184
PA	551	548	549	1,610	1,530	1,570	887	838	862
TX	350	385	388	1,740	1,710	1,790	609	658	695
VT	140	139	139	1,510	1,470	1,490	211	204	207
VA	100	97	97	1,410	1,360	1,425	141	132	138
WA	242	245	245	1,930	1,900	1,930	467	466	473
WI	1,249	1,253	1,253	1,600	1,580	1,625	1,998	1,980	2,036
23 STS	8,355	8,459	8,460	1,697	1,651	1,700	14,176	13,963	14,382

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ^{3/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

ANNUAL COTTON GINNINGS

NEW MEXICO: A total of 22,100 running bales were ginned as of December 1, 2008, compared to 26,250 in 2007.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) As of December 1, Crop Years 2007-2008 by Crop, State, and United States

Type and State	Running Bales Ginned	
	2007	2008
All Cotton		
AL	333,600	364,950
AZ	249,350	185,200
AR	1,782,400	1,212,350
CA	828,350	482,850
FL	85,800	91,750
GA	1,043,200	1,079,050
KS	20,400	8,350
LA	695,800	279,000
MS	1,263,200	639,600
MO	773,400	677,350
NM	26,250	22,100
NC	739,350	618,400
OK	179,000	129,300
SC	126,450	177,700
TN	584,650	518,100
TX	3,771,300	2,373,600
VA	90,150	86,700
U.S.	12,592,650	8,946,350
American-Pima		
AZ	1,200	1/
CA	407,250	248,750
NM	6,200	1/
TX	17,900	11,600
U.S.	432,550	261,600

1/ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 7, 2008

Alfalfa was mostly fair with sixth cutting 100% complete. Cotton was mostly fair to good with 72% harvested. Pecans were mostly good with 40% harvested. Cattle were mostly good to fair. Sheep were mostly good. Range and pastures were mostly fair to good. There were 6.3 days suitable for

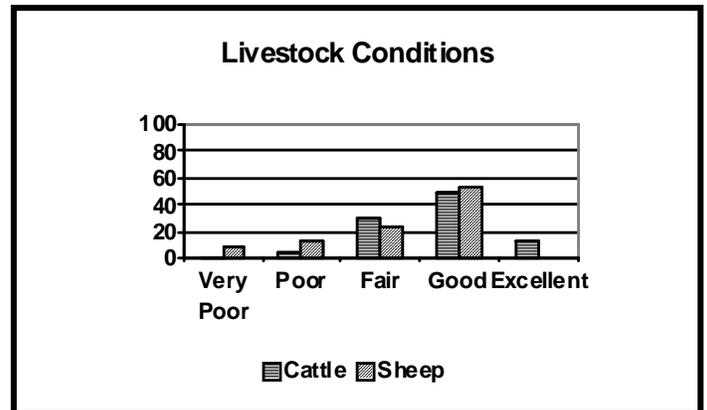
fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was 16% very short, 48% short, 43% adequate, and 3% surplus. Wind damage was 10% light, 9% moderate and 1% severe. Freeze damage 23% light, 11% moderate and 13% severe.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
ALFALFA	6th cutting	100	84	100	100
COTTON	Harvested	72	69	92	94
PECAN	Harvested	40	10	19	14

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	---	---	57	43	---
Cotton	---	3	48	36	13
Pecan	---	1	24	56	19
Wheat (All)	---	---	66	24	10
Cattle	1	5	31	49	14
Sheep	9	14	23	54	---
Range/Pasture	---	12	48	35	5

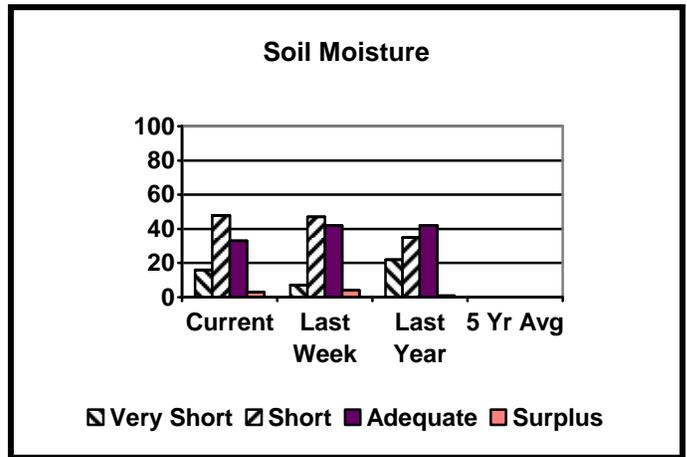


Additional Comments:

Santa Fe: Livestock still faring well despite dry conditions. No recent precipitations. Heavy winds continue to dry out topsoil. Ranchers supplemental feeding, continue to wean, ship calves, and cull cows. **Colfax:** Cold made the work uncomfortable. **De Baca:** Some moisture received this week (snow and rain), but scattered throughout the county. The dry rangeland pastures could use a little more moisture. **Quay:** Dryland wheat is starting to suffer. No rains in a long time.

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	29	26	33	12
Northeast	17	48	35	---
Southwest	---	100	---	---
Southeast	5	56	39	---
State Current	16	48	33	3
State-Last Week	7	47	42	4
State-Last Year	22	35	42	1
State-5-Yr Avg.	---	---	---	---



WEATHER SUMMARY

This week was fairly dry with some areas receiving only 0.01 inches. Tucumcari saw the most precipitation with 0.06 inches. Temperatures were, on average, near or above normal.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS – DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2008

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Week 01-Dec- 07-Dec	Month 01-Dec- 07-Dec	Accum. 01-Jan- 07-Dec	Normal Dec	Normal Jan-Dec
Northwest								
Albuquerque	44.5	63	26	0.00	0.00	7.70	0.50	8.88
Chama	29.7	51	5	0.01	0.01	19.49	1.80	21.61
Farmington	38.3	56	20	0.00	0.00	6.25	0.50	8.62
Gallup	37.0	62	13	0.00	0.00	10.59	0.96	12.87
Grants	37.1	66	12	0.00	0.00	6.55	0.66	10.80
Johnson Ranch	33.1	61	10	0.00	0.00	6.19	0.67	11.52
Los Alamos	37.6	61	22	0.00	0.00	12.03	1.08	18.72
Red River	0.0	0	0	0.00	0.00	9.44	1.16	20.49
Santa Fe	38.6	60	15	0.00	0.00	11.24	0.77	13.98
Northeast								
Capulin	30.4	60	9	0.06	0.06	14.98	0.48	17.42
Clayton	40.4	69	16	0.00	0.00	12.05	0.29	15.09
Clovis	41.4	76	15	0.01	0.01	9.48	0.54	17.51
Las Vegas	39.4	69	11	0.00	0.00	14.78	0.68	19.04
Moriarty	38.3	66	11	0.01	0.01	9.35	0.54	12.71
Raton	35.6	67	10	0.01	0.01	10.73	0.58	16.80
Roy	37.3	65	10	0.00	0.00	12.99	0.45	15.74
Tucumcari	41.9	75	12	0.07	0.07	18.47	0.27	14.17
Southwest								
Animas	49.6	68	30	0.00	0.00	8.89	1.08	11.70
Deming	47.8	72	25	0.00	0.00	11.69	0.85	10.58
Gran Quivira	41.8	64	14	0.00	0.00	17.00	1.10	16.02
Quemado	35.2	65	11	0.00	0.00	7.34	1.02	14.06
Socorro	44.6	69	20	0.00	0.00	7.22	0.58	9.53
T or C	47.0	74	26	0.00	0.00	11.11	1.07	10.29
Southeast								
Alamogordo	43.4	69	26	0.00	0.00	10.35	0.82	12.74
Carlsbad	44.1	84	18	0.00	0.00	8.98	0.41	12.79
Carrizozo	39.9	65	16	0.00	0.00	9.29	0.76	12.83
Las Cruces	47.9	73	30	0.00	0.00	10.03	0.68	9.40
Roswell	40.5	82	17	0.00	0.00	8.58	0.55	12.93
Ruidoso	41.4	62	15	0.00	0.00	20.55	1.63	21.35
Tatum	38.6	79	14	0.00	0.00	12.30	0.48	16.05

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

Peanut Price Highlights

Peanut prices received by farmers for all farmer stock peanuts averaged 21.2 cents per pound for the week ending December 6. The price per pound increased 2.3 cents from the previous week. Marketings of all farmer stock peanuts for the week ending December 6 totaled 55.0 million pounds,

down 63.5 million pounds from the previous week. The average price of Runner type peanuts was 20.0 cents per pound for the week ending December 6, up 1.4 cents from the previous week. Marketings of Runner type peanuts were 22.1 million pounds, down 86.7 million pounds from the previous week.

Peanuts: Prices and Marketings by Type and Week, United States

Item and Type	Week Ending				
	Dec 6, 2008	Nov 29, 2008	Nov 22, 2008	Nov 15, 2008	Nov 8, 2008
----- Dollars per Pound -----					
Average Price					
Runners	0.200	0.186	0.209	0.211	0.197
Spanish	0.206	*	*	*	0.174
Valencias	0	*	*	*	
Virginias	0.225	0.240	0.190	0.240	0.220
All	0.212	0.189	0.207	0.220	0.201
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Marketings 1/					
Runners	22,062	108,731	86,961	59,239	94,694
Spanish	8,106	*	*	*	*
Valencias	0	*	*	*	*
Virginias	24,811	6,572	12,031	20,411	18,234
All	54,979	118,515	108,587	86,207	117,236

* Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

1/ Quantity purchased from farmers.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO: Alfalfa hay prices for November averaged \$196.00 per ton, \$7.00 over the October price of \$189.00 per ton. All Hay prices for November were \$193.00 per ton, also a \$7.00 increase from the previous month. Cow prices decreased to \$48.00 per hundredweight from the previous month's price of \$51.00. Steer and heifer prices increased to \$93.00

per hundredweight compared to \$92.00 the previous month. Calf prices dropped from \$107.00 per hundredweight in October to \$106.00 in November. Milk prices increased by \$0.20 to \$17.30 per hundredweight and were 1% below the national average of \$17.40.

Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, October 2008 and November 2007- 08

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S. ^{1/}
		November 2007 ^{1/}	October 2008 ^{2/}	November 2008 ^{1/}	November
-----Dollars-----					
CROPS					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	5.63
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.508
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	8.87
Hay, all baled	Ton	158.00	186.00	193.00	147.00
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	162.00	189.00	196.00	163.00
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.206
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	3.94
Wheat, all	Bu.	-	-	-	6.13
LIVESTOCK					
Sheep ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	21.80
Lambs ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	97.50
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	51.00	48.00	44.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	100.00	92.00	93.00	93.00
Calves	Cwt.	112.00	107.00	106.00	106.00
Milk	Cwt.	21.20	17.10	17.30	17.40

^{1/} Mid-month ^{2/} Entire month ^{3/} October - entire month