

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2016

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Warm, very dry weather dominated the state during March. With the exception of Antelope Wells, where year-to-date precipitation was 0.58 inch above normal, all weather stations reported moisture deficits since January 1. Most notably, Chama was already 4.37 inches below normal for the year, followed by Red River at -2.72 inches and El Morro at -2.23 inches. Virtually statewide, reporter comments indicated an extreme need for moisture as the spring planting season neared. Reports from Curry County noted that dry, windy conditions slowed, if not halted dryland winter wheat growth, and have negated the potential for an average production year in some irrigated fields. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 9 degrees above normal. Daytime highs ranged from 61 degrees at Chama to 87 degrees at Artesia and Roswell. Overnight lows varied from -5 degrees at Eagle Nest to 36 degrees at Truth or Consequences. Native pastures and rangeland feedstuffs had become depleted due to the abnormally dry first quarter. As such, most ranchers were having to provide supplemental feed to their herds to sustain herd health prior to the availability of forest service allotments. Additionally, it was reported that loco weed has become a problem in some herds in Union County. Feed and concentrate supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 14 percent short, and 85 percent adequate. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 5 percent very short, 20 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile planted .....	24	NA	50	NA
Onions planted .....	54	NA	90	NA
Cows calved .....	20	15	16	NA
Ewes lambled .....	18	12	8	NA
Livestock receiving supplemental feed				
Cattle and calves .....	81	83	84	NA
Sheep and lambs .....	42	77	77	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short .....	9	30	5	NA
Short .....	74	20	50	NA
Adequate .....	17	48	45	NA
Surplus .....	--	2	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	8	5	7	NA
Short .....	36	15	24	NA
Adequate .....	56	80	69	NA
Surplus .....	--	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, AND PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
<b>Alfalfa hay</b>				
Very poor.....	--	NA	--	NA
Poor.....	2	NA	--	NA
Fair.....	58	NA	17	NA
Good.....	24	NA	46	NA
Excellent.....	16	NA	37	NA
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor.....	4	--	--	NA
Poor.....	17	--	--	NA
Fair.....	46	20	50	NA
Good.....	33	30	40	NA
Excellent.....	--	50	10	NA
<b>Cattle and calves</b>				
Very poor.....	2	2	1	NA
Poor.....	4	3	1	NA
Fair.....	46	29	40	NA
Good.....	45	57	56	NA
Excellent.....	3	9	2	NA
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>				
Very poor.....	27	15	19	NA
Poor.....	20	19	18	NA
Fair.....	11	15	14	NA
Good.....	41	51	49	NA
Excellent.....	1	--	--	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

New Mexico’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_Mexico/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2016/NM\\_Weather\\_03272016.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/NM_Weather_03272016.pdf)