

NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Above average temperatures coupled with below average precipitation plagued most areas across the State as producers began planting or preparing to plant their 2017 crops, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistical Service, USDA. Specifically, average temperatures varied from 0 to 13 degrees above normal, while monthly moisture deficits were recorded at all reporting weather stations except Capulin and Eagle Nest, where the departures from normal totaled 0.20 and 0.01 inch, respectively. Statewide, topsoil moisture was reported as 24 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 40 percent last month. Subsoil moisture showed a similar decline, with 37 percent reported as adequate to surplus, compared with 55 percent a month ago. Daytime highs ranged from 63 degrees at Eagle Nest to 94 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows varied from -11 degrees at Eagle Nest to 36 degrees at NMSU and Santa Teresa. The northwest received the most widespread moisture during the month; however, total accumulations were less than one inch in these locations. Capulin and Eagle Nest in the northeastern portion of the State were the only two stations to record at least an inch of precipitation with 1.14 and 1.04 inches, respectively. In the northeast, growing conditions were deteriorating quickly under hot, dry, and windy weather. Reports from Union County indicated that winter wheat in the area had declined to the point where some producers were considering a replacement crop depending on spring conditions. Statewide, winter wheat condition was reported as 9 percent good to excellent, compared with 29 percent last month and 33 percent last year. Reports from NMSU indicated that alfalfa weevil presence will require greater field management in 2017 than in recent years, with larvae having been noted in some fields for approximately 3 weeks. Chile and onion planting was well underway despite dry soil conditions; however, progress was behind last year. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 2 percent very short, 13 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 15 percent very short, 24 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile planted	22	NA	24	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	33	NA	54	NA
Emerged	30	NA	NA	NA
Cows calved	15	10	20	NA
Ewes lambled	15	10	18	NA
Livestock receiving supplemental feed				
Cattle and calves.....	78	82	81	NA
Sheep and lambs.....	72	75	42	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short	14	14	9	NA
Short	62	46	74	NA
Adequate.....	23	40	17	NA
Surplus.....	1	--	--	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	9	12	8	NA
Short	54	33	36	NA
Adequate.....	36	53	56	NA
Surplus.....	1	2	--	NA

NA – not available

(--)- zero

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION				
	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor	--	NA	--	NA
Poor.....	7	NA	2	NA
Fair.....	66	NA	58	NA
Good	27	NA	24	NA
Excellent	--	NA	16	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	3	4	4	NA
Poor.....	43	18	17	NA
Fair.....	45	49	46	NA
Good	6	26	33	NA
Excellent	3	3	--	NA
Cattle and calves				
Very poor	--	1	2	NA
Poor.....	2	4	4	NA
Fair.....	40	42	46	NA
Good	54	47	45	NA
Excellent	4	6	3	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor	2	3	27	NA
Poor.....	13	8	20	NA
Fair.....	35	37	11	NA
Good	49	49	41	NA
Excellent	1	3	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/2017/NM_Weather_03262017.pdf