

# NEW MEXICO CROP PROGRESS



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

PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004  
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2017

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Moisture was more widespread and average temperatures were somewhat cooler as March ended and April began, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistical Service, USDA. With the exceptions of Deming and NMSU, all reporting weather stations accumulated measurable precipitation ranging from 0.01 inch at Santa Teresa to 2.16 inches at Tucumcari. Clovis, Conchas Dam, Gran Quivira, and Melrose Gunnery also reported moisture totals over one inch. Despite the boost in precipitation, comments from several counties in different areas of the State noted that dry conditions remained, and additional rainfall would be necessary to stave off drought conditions as spring planting begins and livestock are moved to summer pastures. Year-to-date deficits existed at Angel Fire, Carlsbad, Gran Quivira, Melrose Gunnery, Quemado, and Socorro. Daytime highs ranged from 53 degrees at Angel Fire to 88 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows varied from 17 degrees at El Morro to 41 degrees at NMSU. In the northeast, reports indicated that more wheat fields will be grazed out rather than harvested for grain due to poor prices. Statewide, winter wheat condition was reported as 17 percent good to excellent, compared with 37 percent last year and a 5-year average of 28 percent. Additionally, alfalfa hay condition was reported as 28 percent good to excellent, compared with 42 percent last year and a 5-year average of 54 percent. A report issued by NMSU entomologist, Jane Pierce, noted that 2017 is expected to be the worst year for alfalfa weevil in over 20 years, with several fields needing 3 insecticide treatments before the first cutting is harvested. Southern counties have seen threshold levels of larvae for approximately one month, while centrally located fields have had larvae present for a few weeks. Comparatively, fields in Dona Ana County, which typically has very few fields needing treatment relative to other counties, has had reports of many fields with damage already present. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 3 percent very short, 18 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Stock water supplies were reported as 14 percent very short, 23 percent short, 59 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 .....	35	22	33	48
Onions				
Planted.....	45	33	73	81
Emerged .....	35	30	28	NA
Cows calved .....	34	15	34	NA
Ewes lambled .....	22	15	23	NA
Livestock receiving supplemental feed				
Cattle and calves.....	80	78	80	NA
Sheep and lambs.....	72	72	53	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

<b>DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION</b>				
Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.0	NA	6.0	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	10	14	11	39
Short .....	57	62	70	35
Adequate.....	32	23	19	26
Surplus.....	1	1	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	7	9	10	NA
Short .....	47	54	37	NA
Adequate.....	45	36	53	NA
Surplus.....	1	1	--	NA

NA – not available

(-- ) – zero

<b>CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION</b>				
	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor .....	--	--	--	4
Poor.....	7	7	2	3
Fair.....	65	66	56	39
Good .....	28	27	26	39
Excellent .....	--	--	16	15
Pasture and range conditoin				
Very poor .....	11	NA	3	37
Poor.....	15	NA	13	20
Fair.....	45	NA	49	25
Good .....	27	NA	31	15
Excellent .....	2	NA	4	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor .....	4	3	3	27
Poor.....	35	43	16	16
Fair.....	44	45	44	29
Good .....	15	6	35	21
Excellent .....	2	3	2	7
Cattle and calves				
Very poor .....	1	--	2	NA
Poor.....	4	2	4	NA
Fair.....	40	40	42	NA
Good .....	52	54	47	NA
Excellent .....	3	4	5	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor .....	5	2	24	NA
Poor.....	15	13	18	NA
Fair.....	31	35	12	NA
Good .....	48	49	45	NA
Excellent .....	1	1	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\\_04022017.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/NM_Weather_04022017.pdf)