

# 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  
 April 2, 2018

Contact: Longino Bustillos  
 (800) 530-8810

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2018

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** High winds coupled with persistently dry weather resulted in the further deterioration of soil moisture levels and winter wheat condition, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the United States Drought Monitor released on March 29, extreme drought blanketed the northern third of the State. Ninety-nine percent of the State was categorized as abnormally dry or worse, with 34.1 percent, 43.8 percent, and 20.8 percent experiencing extreme, moderate, or severe drought, respectively. Overall, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 7 percent adequate to surplus, compared with 8 percent last week, 33 percent last year, and a 5-year average of 29 percent. While comments from Union County indicated that cattle were grazing approximately 40 percent of the wheat fields in the area, it was noted that livestock had been removed from all but a few irrigated fields in Curry County. Comments from Curry County also suggested that very little spring fieldwork was being done due to dry soils. Some cattle in San Juan County were noted to have body condition scores of 3, which could result in reproduction issues. Precipitation was noted at 26 out of 41 reporting weather stations, although total accumulations were mostly below normal. The largest moisture accumulation was reported at Torreon, where 0.85 inch fell. Average temperatures ranged from -3 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal. At the reporting weather stations, daytime highs varied from 58 degrees at Los Alamos to 88 degrees at Carlsbad. Overnight lows ranged from 0 degrees at Los Alamos to 40 degrees at Carlsbad and NMSU. With supplemental feeding continuing at a higher rate for both cattle and sheep, hay stocks on hand were being depleted more quickly this year. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 8 percent very short, 44 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, compared with 3 percent very short, 37 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus last week. Stock water supplies were reported as 26 percent very short, 29 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus, compared with 23 percent very short, 24 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus last week.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Chile				
Planted.....	26	16	33	42
Cotton				
Planted.....	3	NA	NA	NA
Onions				
Planted.....	56	52	43	77
Emerged .....	21	NA	34	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved .....	38	25	31	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	91	91	80	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed .....	35	25	21	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	79	78	72	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	6.6	NA	6.0	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	53	44	10	30
Short.....	40	48	57	41
Adequate.....	7	8	32	29
Surplus.....	--	--	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	29	20	7	NA
Short.....	50	55	47	NA
Adequate.....	20	24	45	NA
Surplus.....	1	1	1	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	10	1	7	4
Fair.....	52	61	65	45
Good.....	36	35	28	37
Excellent.....	2	3	--	13
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	2	NA	11	26
Poor.....	26	NA	15	19
Fair.....	59	NA	45	32
Good.....	12	NA	27	19
Excellent.....	1	NA	2	4
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	21	8	4	20
Poor.....	46	62	35	18
Fair.....	20	23	44	32
Good.....	11	5	15	24
Excellent.....	2	2	2	6
Cattle and calves				
Very poor.....	1	3	1	NA
Poor.....	9	5	4	NA
Fair.....	42	51	40	NA
Good.....	44	36	52	NA
Excellent.....	4	5	3	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Very poor.....	14	21	5	NA
Poor.....	19	12	15	NA
Fair.....	30	23	31	NA
Good.....	35	42	48	NA
Excellent.....	2	2	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/2018/NM-Weather-04012018.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/NM-Weather-04012018.pdf)