

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending December 10, 2019

Year-End Review by Sector

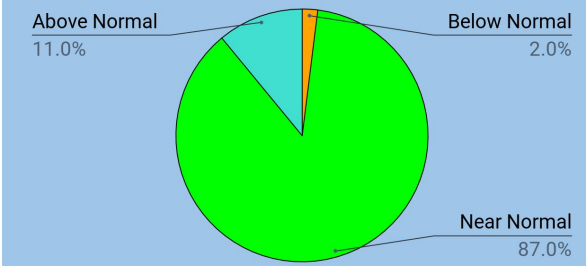
North Carolina remains clear of all drought and dryness this week, so our final update for 2019 offers some year-end summaries by sector.

Water Resources

Although reservoir inflows slowed to a trickle in some areas this fall, our **relatively short-lived drought ended before it could take a significant toll** on water supplies.

Most streams and groundwater wells have now rebounded, and managed lakes are at their winter elevations.

Distribution of 28-day streamflows as of 12/10

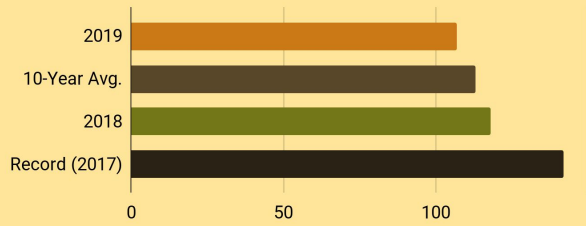


Data from USGS

Agriculture

The wet end to the growing season helped crops such as soybeans and peanuts reach maturity, but **some crops never fully recovered from the dry summer or the fall drought**.

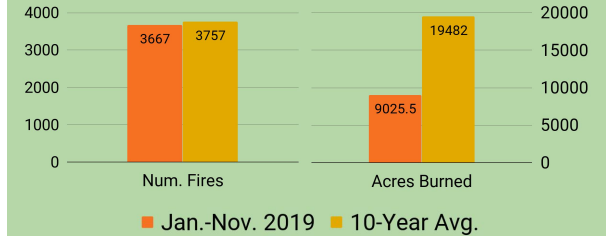
Corn for grain - yield per acre, in bushels



Statistics from USDA NASS

Corn yields were down slightly from the 10-year average, but **overall production was up 4%** compared to last year.

Forestry



Statistics from the NC Forest Service

The year is set to wrap up with fire activity and acres burned both **below the 10-year average**.

Despite a dry fall, we avoided a repeat of the active 2016 fire season in the Mountains. Our **recent rain events helped extinguish a few lingering wildfires**.

