

Crop Summary

2005 Crop Summary: Utah producers entered the 2005 crop year thankful for the end of a 5-year drought. Utah received above average precipitation throughout the state in the months of January and February. Water sheds reached over 100 percent of the normal snow pack. Higher elevations in the state received large amounts of snow, while lower areas received rain and snow. Cold and wet weather conditions lasted from the beginning of March all the way through the end of April, averaging approximately 3.9 days per week suitable for field work.

In May 2005, many northern counties reported anywhere between 2 and 4.5 inches of rain. Utah Power and Light officials authorized a controlled release from Cutler's Dam due to the high water levels in the reservoir. As a result of the controlled release, thousands of farmland acres were flooded in Box Elder County; farmers experienced water as high as six feet in some areas.

The early part of June brought some concern from local farmers because of saturated fields due to the excess rains in certain counties around the state. Many field activities were halted from day to day while some crops were delayed in their development.

The summer months brought warmer temperatures and dryer weather. Alfalfa hay began to dry out, while the days suitable for work increased dramatically. Crops such as corn, alfalfa, and fruits flourished due to the warmer temperatures around the state.

The fall months brought mild temperatures with warm weather showing up every other week. Light rain showers around the state delayed crop progress just a little. Vets around the state were kept busy treating cattle with pneumonia. There were no major threats or outbreaks to the livestock in 2005.

Pasture and rangelands—producers anticipated that the pastures would be healthier and stronger for grazing their livestock, as pastures were greener than they had been in a long time. The wet conditions greatly improved the soil moisture content around the state. Farmers throughout the state were also excited to see near normal irrigation levels for the upcoming crop season. Southern counties in Utah reported fires had taken out thousands of acres of rangeland causing future problems for farmers and ranchers in their grazing rotations.

Overall, the 2005 crop year brought increased yields and healthier livestock due to increased water supplies and adequate temperatures all year round.

Crop Production Index (1977=100):Crops, by Commodity Grouping Utah, 1998-2005

| Year | Small Grain <i>Percent</i> | Hay <i>Percent</i> | Fruit ¹ <i>Percent</i> | Other Crops <i>Percent</i> | Total Crops <i>Percent</i> |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1998 | 130 | 151 | 122 | 105 | 138 |
| 1999 | 129 | 149 | 48 | 108 | 131 |
| 2000 | 101 | 136 | 127 | 105 | 125 |
| 2001 | 86 | 138 | 60 | 96 | 117 |
| 2002 | 65 | 124 | 20 | 87 | 101 |
| 2003 | 72 | 135 | 85 | 89 | 114 |
| 2004 | 79 | 134 | 78 | 87 | 113 |
| 2005 | 78 | 141 | 95 | 76 | 117 |

¹ Fruit production index is derived from total production.