



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 15 Week Ending July 8, 2007

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Agricultural Summary

Hot, dry weather has set the stage for large range fires across the state. Smoke and ash from the Milford wildfire and driving winds hampered working conditions but days suitable for field work still averaged 7.0 days around the State. The Neola North fire has burned 20,000 acres of range, pasture, and hay land in Uintah County and about the same amount in Duchesne County. Permittees have been required to take their cattle off Forest land in a much larger area than the fire. In southern Utah, the largest range fire in the history of the State is burning range at a rapid rate. Some cattle have been reported killed. An accurate count won't be available until the fire is out. There is going to be an extreme shortage of range and hay due to the fires.

Field Crops Summary

Wheat and barley are starting to ripen rapidly. The first grain of the season was harvested in Box Elder County this past week. Yields were lower than expected. Corn growth has been excellent. If growers can irrigate adequately, the crop should be very good. The first sweet corn is now on the market in Weber County. This is very early for sweet corn. All the heat has helped it mature early. On average, second cutting of alfalfa hay was 31 percent complete compared to 38 percent last year at this time and the five year average of 25 percent. Farmers in Sevier County were spraying for aphids. Many have run out of water for irrigation. Safflower on irrigated and non-irrigated land was beginning to blossom in Box Elder County. The sweet cherry harvest has reached the mid point. Yields in Weber County seem a little light. Apricot harvest is 63 percent finished 25 percentage points ahead of the five year average.

Livestock Summary

Lack of moisture and wildfires continued to cause rangeland to deteriorate. Rangeland and pasture conditions were rated 12 very poor, 28 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 20 percent good. The amount of range rated poor or very poor increased 5 percentage points from last week. Many livestock producers feel that unless the weather changes significantly they will bring their livestock in from the range early.

Crop Progress for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley Headed Stage	96	93	92	91
Oats Headed Stage	73	65	70	69
Oats Harvested (Grain)	22	20	44	33
Spring Wheat Headed	97	93	89	88
Alfalfa Second Cutting	31	18	38	25
Other Hay Cut	78	73	67	69
Apricots Harvested	63	54	21	38
Sweet Cherries Harvested	50	30	71	71
Tart Cherries Harvested	22	17	19	21

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range & Pasture	12	28	40	20	0
Spring Wheat	2	7	49	36	6
Winter Wheat	0	6	41	45	8
Barley	0	2	31	53	14
Corn	0	0	25	61	14
Sheep	0	0	16	78	6
Cattle/calves	0	2	22	66	10

Livestock Percent for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Sheep Moved to Summer Range	97	94	100	98
Cattle Moved to Summer Range	97	94	100	99

Soil Moisture for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	24	43	33	0
Subsoil	17	45	38	0
Irrigation water supplies	19	39	42	0
Stock water supplies	10	33	57	0