



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 5 Week Ending April 8, 2012

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Agricultural Summary

Days suitable for field work were 6.1. Parts of Northern Utah reported below normal precipitation and a lot of wind. The nights were extremely cold. The recent snow storm provided needed moisture for Morgan and Weber Counties. Topsoil moisture content was rated 29 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus.

Field Crop Summary

Box Elder County apricots and early peaches were blooming this week and may have suffered frost damage from the cold weather at night. Pollination may also be suffering as bees are not flying or may not have migrated back from their winter trips to California. Farmers are busy doing fieldwork. They are planting small grains, safflower, and new alfalfa. Corn farmers have mid-April as their target date to begin planting corn. Most of the winter wheat fields are looking well. Plant maturity seems to be a couple of weeks ahead of normal this year. Irrigation water supplies look good for this year. Farmers in **Cache County** have enjoyed ideal weather for getting crops planted. Most are quite happy about their field progress thus far. Small grains are mostly planted. Some safflower and alfalfa hay is also being planted this early. Corn growers are waiting awhile before planting corn. Growers who depend on irrigation water are feeling confident about water supplies if their source is a reservoir. Growers who depend on surface runoff are bracing themselves for a tight water year. In **Morgan County** the recent snow storm provided much needed moisture for sprouting newly planted grain and alfalfa crops. **Weber County** reported fields were drying out, so growers were happy to see the recent snow that will provide the moisture to germinate seeded fields. In **Duchesne-Daggett Counties** field preparation and planting are in full swing. In **Summit County** the first part of the week was dry and warm which helped farmers with field work before the end of the week turned cold and wet. Crop land is dry in **Beaver County** and farmers are working to get their irrigation systems going.

Livestock Summary

Box Elder County livestock producers reported that they are beginning to brand and doctor calves, preparing to turn them out on spring pastures. Range herds of sheep are being shorn and are expected to begin lambing in earnest by mid-April. Producers report that lambs seem to be doing well. Prices for most commodities remain strong. However, milk price has been falling for the last two months. Dairy producers are struggling financially to make ends meet. In **Cache County** cattle and sheep have done exceptionally well during the mild winter. Growers report minimal calving and lambing losses as a result of the ideal weather conditions. Most calves and lambs are growing well. The producers in **Duchesne-Daggett Counties** are finishing up on lambing and calving with young livestock being reported in good health. In **Summit County**

ranchers are still calving and lambing and have reported things going well. In **Uintah County** the dry weather conditions have been good for livestock during the calving and lambing season, but more moisture will be needed to maintain range land vegetation and crops.

Crop Progress for Week Ending April 8, 2012

| Item | Current Week | Previous Week | Previous Year | 5 Year Average |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Barley Planted | 36 | 43 | 24 | 66 |
| Oats Planted | 27 | 16 | 25 | 23 |
| Spring Wheat Planted | 72 | 42 | 23 | 31 |
| Apricots Full Bloom | 86 | NA | NA | NA |
| Peach Full Bloom | 26 | NA | NA | NA |
| Sweet Cherries Full Bloom | 22 | NA | NA | NA |
| Tart Cherries Full Bloom | 19 | NA | NA | NA |

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending April 8, 2012

| Item | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Range & Pasture | 0 | 7 | 43 | 43 | 7 |
| Winter Wheat | 0 | 0 | 18 | 60 | 22 |
| Sheep | 0 | 0 | 4 | 70 | 26 |
| Cattle/calves | 0 | 0 | 10 | 66 | 24 |

Livestock Percent for Week Ending April 8, 2012

| Item | Current Week | Previous Week | Previous Year | 5-Year Average |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Cows Calved | 76 | 61 | 72 | 71 |
| Sheep Sheared on Farm | 60 | 42 | 65 | 42 |
| Sheep Sheared on Range | 50 | 27 | 43 | 28 |
| Ewes Lambled on Farm | 72 | 45 | 60 | 66 |
| Ewes Lambled on Range | 35 | 19 | 19 | 35 |

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 8, 2012

| Item | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Topsoil | 0 | 29 | 65 | 6 |
| Subsoil | 0 | 32 | 66 | 2 |
| Stock water supplies | 1 | 7 | 91 | 1 |