



Nevada Ag Stats Newsletter

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May Weather Summary

Daytime highs warmed during the month. Northeast Nevada continued to record freezing night time lows. Average temperatures ranged from 1.0 to 3.4 degrees above normal. Las Vegas recorded a high of 104 while Ely recorded a high of 86. Eureka recorded a low of 18 degrees. All stations recorded some precipitation with the exception of Las Vegas. The amount of recorded precipitation was below normal. Drought conditions were a growing concern as most of the state is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. Pasture and range conditions were in poor to fair condition. Irrigated crops were in generally good condition, but concerns continue over irrigation water supplies for later in the season. First cutting of alfalfa was underway in the North. Main farm and ranch activities: planting, fertilizing, ditch burning, irrigating, branding, weed and insect control, and equipment maintenance.

Weather data for stations in Nevada: May 2012

Station	Temperature (°F)				Precipitation (inches)		
	Monthly Avg.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24 Hour
Reno	61.5	2.0	92	35	0.30	-0.19	0.30
Elko	54.4	1.0	89	23	0.55	-0.41	0.49
Ely	52.7	2.0	86	23	0.08	-1.02	0.08
Winnemucca	56.4	1.3	91	26	0.13	-0.99	0.13
Eureka	53.6	1.8	88	18	0.07	-0.66	0.07
Tonopah	61.5	2.7	91	35	0.14	-0.39	0.14
Las Vegas	80.7	3.4	104	52	0.00	-0.12	0.00

Hay Prices

Nevada: The all hay price, at \$223.00 per ton, is up \$9.00 from April and up \$59.00 from last May. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures came in at \$225.00 per ton, up \$10.00 from April and up \$60.00 from a year ago. All other hay, at \$175.00 per ton, is unchanged from April and up \$40.00 from a year ago.

United States: The all hay price, at \$199 per ton, is up \$9.00 from April and \$28.00 higher than last May. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures came in at \$215.00 per ton, up \$8.00 from April. All other hay, at \$146.00 per ton, is up \$6.00 from last month.

Hay Prices Received by Type measured in \$ per Ton – Select States and United States: May 2012

State	All Hay			Alfalfa Hay			Other Hay ¹		
	May 2011	Apr. 2012	May 2012	May 2011	Apr. 2012	May 2012	May 2011	Apr. 2012	May 2012
Arizona	213.00	259.00	250.00	215.00	260.00	255.00	155.00	195.00	195.00
California	224.00	232.00	221.00	239.00	235.00	227.00	141.00	215.00	186.00
Idaho	189.00	198.00	178.00	192.00	200.00	180.00	125.00	140.00	120.00
Nevada	164.00	214.00	223.00	165.00	215.00	225.00	135.00	175.00	175.00
Oregon	184.00	226.00	228.00	190.00	229.00	230.00	175.00	220.00	226.00
Utah	166.00	171.00	203.00	167.00	175.00	205.00	137.00	142.00	163.00
United States	171.00	190.00	199.00	187.00	207.00	215.00	114.00	140.00	146.00

¹ Other hay is comprised of grain and grain mixtures, timothy, clover, wild, prairie, range, and other types.

Hay Stocks

Nevada: All hay stored on Nevada farms were estimated at 238,000 tons as of May 1, 2012, up from 46,000 tons last year. Disappearance from December 1, 2011-May 1, 2012 totaled 592,000 tons, compared with 773,000 tons for the same period a year ago. Stocks in the seven western states (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, UT, and WA) totaled 2,068 thousand tons on May 1, 2012, 59.1 percent above last year.

United States: All hay stored on farms May 1, 2012, totaled 21.4 million tons, down 4 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2011 - May 1, 2012 totaled 69.3 million tons, compared with 79.9 million tons for the same period a year ago. This is the smallest disappearance since 1985. Compared with last year, hay stocks as a percent of production increased across much of the Northern Tier and in many eastern States. Mild temperatures coupled with limited snowpack left many pastures and ranges accessible to livestock herds for longer periods of time during the winter allowing producers to feed less hay. Similarly, beneficial rainfall throughout much of the spring and summer boosted pasture growth in many Atlantic Coast States, delaying the need for supplemental feedstuffs as winter approached. Elsewhere, on-farm stocks declined from last year in a number Great Plains States, as prolonged drought conditions hampered pasture growth and forced many livestock producers to feed an increased amount of hay to their herds.

Hay Stocks on Farms – Select States and United States: December 1 and May 1, 2010-2012

State	December 1		May 1	
	2010 (1,000 tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)	2012 (1,000 tons)
Arizona	365	250	40	35
California	1,850	1,640	160	240
Idaho	2,300	2,000	280	700
Nevada	819	830	46	238
Oregon	2,100	2,200	280	275
Utah	1,050	1,420	144	350
Washington	1,607	1,460	350	230
Western States ...	10,091	9,800	1,300	2,068
United States	102,134	90,726	22,217	21,381

Winter Wheat Production

Nationally: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.69 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2011. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 35.6 million acres, up 10 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last year.

Hard Red Winter, at 1.03 billion bushels, is up 32 percent from 2011. Soft Red Winter, at 428 million bushels, is down 6 percent from last year. White Winter is down 9 percent from last year and now totals 233 million bushels. Of this total, 14.1 million bushels are Hard White and 219 million bushels are Soft White.

Hired Workers

Nationally: There were 575,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2012, down nearly 5 percent from a year ago. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 748,000 for the following quarter's reference week of April 8-14, 2012. Because NASS did not publish estimates for the April 2011 quarter, no previous year comparison is available for April.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.52 per hour during the January 2012 reference week, up nearly 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.39 per hour, up more than 1 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.96 per hour compared with \$10.52 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.58 per hour, was up 21 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up fractionally from a year ago.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.41 per hour during the April 2012 reference week, down 11 cents from the January quarter. Field workers received an average of \$10.50 per hour, up 11 cents from January. Livestock workers earned \$10.95, down just 1 cent from January. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.62 per hour, was up 4 cents from January. The number of hours worked averaged 39.2 for hired workers during the April reference week.

Farm Labor: Number of Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates for Select Regions & United States: Weeks of April 8-14, 2012 and January 8-14, 2012

United States and region		Hired workers				Wage rates in dollars per hour			
		Number of workers	Expected to be employed		Number of hours worked	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
			150 days or more	149 days or less		Field	Livestock	Field and livestock	
Mountain I	Apr.	29,000	24,000	5,000	38.4	10.74	10.60	10.65	11.23
	Jan.	19,000	18,000	1,000	44.3	9.81	10.15	10.05	10.90
Mountain II	Apr.	19,000	13,000	6,000	42.4	9.60	9.82	9.67	10.97
	Jan.	14,000	12,000	2,000	41.5	10.70	9.95	10.31	11.89
Mountain III	Apr.	20,000	18,000	2,000	50.7	9.07	10.07	9.22	9.79
	Jan.	19,000	18,000	1,000	48.0	9.06	10.70	9.37	10.05
Pacific	Apr.	66,000	48,000	18,000	42.3	10.85	12.62	11.04	11.67
	Jan.	47,000	38,000	9,000	38.9	10.73	12.58	11.00	11.85
California	Apr.	156,000	137,000	19,000	39.8	10.55	11.85	10.83	11.81
	Jan.	135,000	112,000	23,000	42.8	10.08	11.75	10.42	11.38
United States	Apr.	748,000	580,000	168,000	39.2	10.50	10.95	10.62	11.41
	Jan.	575,000	489,000	86,000	39.6	10.39	10.96	10.58	11.52

Mountain I includes Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Mountain II includes Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. Mountain III includes Arizona and New Mexico. Pacific includes Oregon and Washington. United States excludes Alaska.

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Inquiries may be directed to Martin J. Owens, Director, Nevada Field Office
This publication is also available on the web at www.nass.usda.gov/nv/

Pasture and Range Condition, Percent Rating Good or Better Week Ending May 27, 2012

