

# *Crop Summary*

**2012 Crop Summary:** January and February of 2012 brought lower than average precipitation throughout these months. This dry winter continued into March which was beneficial for livestock producers. Farmers anticipated planting crops in the early spring and hoped for early spring snow storms to help increase the mountain snowpack and bring it within normal levels. Producers across the state were concerned about the availability of water because of the dry winter.

Fruit growers were concerned about the too warm of weather in late March and early April causing their trees to bud too early and possible frost damage. Extra warm weather in the first part of April encouraged farmers to start planting spring crops. Due to the relatively mild weather conditions, livestock producers across the State of Utah reported a good lambing and calving season for the spring of 2012.

Weather continued to be mild in northern Utah with adequate irrigation water available, while counties in the central regions were reporting dry conditions with irrigation water beginning to be brought in. Northern Utah experienced a cold front the first week of May with a light frost being reported in some areas, but not enough to cause significant frost damage to fruit or other crops. Grasshopper and spider-mite infestations were reported in several Central Utah counties during May. The first cutting of alfalfa started in May and corn plantings continued throughout the month.

Weather conditions for the month of June were reported to be dry and windy throughout the state. Several counties in Northern Utah experienced cold temperatures and frost early in the season; combined with dry wind it has been difficult for crops to recover. The apricot harvest began the third week of June.

Hot, dry temperatures continued into July, with much needed rain coming through parts of Utah in mid-July. The rain and cooler temperatures that came with it provided a much needed benefit to crops and rangeland. Cattle producers reported that the majority of their animals are on summer rangeland. Alfalfa second cutting began the first week of July. Winter wheat harvesting started the second week in July.

Dry conditions were dominant over most of the state during the month of August. However, some areas received considerable rain late the second week of August. The third cutting of alfalfa began the first of August. Lack of moisture was a concern for livestock producers, who began shipping their lambs and calves early in order to reduce their herd numbers.

September provided dry, warm conditions for field work with some light rainfall occurring the third week in September. Early October brought reports of wide-spread frost and much needed rains during the following weeks of October. Fall precipitation was still below average.