

Crop Summary

2014 Crop Summary:

April saw cool temperatures in the first part of the month but warmer weather prevailed by the end of the month. Some good precipitation fell on most of the state. However, some parts of the state are worried there will not be enough irrigation for the coming season. Field work progressed nicely and most crops were planted by the end of the month.

Some moisture was received during May, but the southern part of the state remains dryer than what they would like. Most irrigation companies have water in their canals and crops are being irrigated across the state. Some areas with good haying conditions started to harvest their first cutting of alfalfa. Pasture and rangeland is rated mostly fair to good, and ranchers started to move their livestock on to those pastures and rangeland.

June started dry but had some precipitation in the middle and end of the month that helped crop conditions. The southern part of the state was still dry and irrigation was running low in some areas. By the end of the month a couple of counties had run out of irrigation. Crops look good across the state and alfalfa first cutting was completed almost everywhere in the state with some counties starting on their second cutting.

Some moisture fell across most of the state during July, helping crops progress and be in good to excellent condition. The warm summer days have been ideal for growing conditions. Some harvesting of small grains took place during the month and yields looked favorable. Fruit harvest was also progressing well in July with most of the sweet cherries harvested while apricots and tart cherries are in the process of being harvested. Irrigation water was quickly running out in some areas of the state.

August was warm with precipitation across the state that helped crops for the most part. Some hay that had already been cut was rained on so quality wasn't as good as it could have been. Most of the small grains were harvested and peaches and apples were being harvested as well. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was complete and about half of the third cutting had taken place. Corn for both grain and silage is looking mostly good to excellent.

Wet weather in the last half of September caused some problems with alfalfa hay in the windrows, but it was good for pastures and crops still awaiting harvest. Corn for silage was being harvested and most of the third cutting of alfalfa hay was complete. Peaches, apples, and onions continued to make good progress on their harvest. Most of the winter wheat was planted by month's end.

October and November saw the completion of harvest for all crops, including corn for grain and apples. Winter wheat was all planted and mostly emerged, as well. Precipitation needed for fall planting was more than adequate and left the fields in good condition for spring activities.