



# Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 28 Week Ending September 13, 2009

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## Agricultural Summary

The days are becoming shorter and the nights are becoming cooler. The days suitable for work 6.8. Dairymen operations continue to struggle as prices continue to drop.

## Field Crops Summary

**Box Elder County** reports safflower is also being harvested in the Hansel Valley area. However, safflower harvest is likely two weeks away in the Pocatello Valley area. Some safflower on irrigated cropland in the Bear River Valley looks to be ready for harvest. Onions were being harvested in the county. Onion harvest will continue into mid October. Most of the onions look good and the producers are optimistic because of the current market prices. Both irrigated and dry land farmers are still busy winter wheat. Some of the acreage that is currently in corn will be drilled to fall wheat as late as December 1st. **Cache County** reports growers continue to make good progress harvesting small grains and alfalfa hay. Corn silage and safflower should be ready to harvest about the beginning of October. **Duchesne County** reports moderate temperatures this week during the day, while the temperatures at night dipped into the low 40's this past week. Third crop alfalfa harvest is in full swing and looks to be of good quality. Corn silage harvesting will begin in the next week or two. Corn is behind what it normally is and producers are worried about an early freeze. Water supplies continue to hold up in most areas, however, one area in the county is out of water. Never the less, this has been one of the best irrigation seasons they have had. **Morgan County** reports corn is late maturing. Growers in the county will need a long fall without a frost to get it mature. **Weber County** reports that the maturing stage for corn is a little late this year, so many are waiting to harvest until next week. **Utah County** reports dry range conditions. Third crop hay is still being cut, and peaches and apples are being harvested. **Beaver County** reports 3rd crop hay looks good. Dry weather is good for putting up hay but not good for ranges and pastures. There is a lot of hay for sale this year in the county and the price is low. **Garfield & Kane** counties report recent rain storms have interrupted hay harvests, but provided much needed moisture to range land, and fall seeded cereal grain crops. Wayne County reports scattered showers that did little to improve the dry conditions in the area. **Summit County** reports farmers are still cutting third crop alfalfa and ranges are dry due to lack of rain fall.

**Crop Progress  
for Week Ending September 13, 2009**

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Onions Harvested	30	15	54	46
Barley Harvested (Grain)	97	93	91	96
Oats Harvested (Grain)	90	79	79	86
Winter Wheat Planted	22	NA	15	25
Corn Dent Stage	36	14	44	56
Corn Mature	19	9	14	21
Alfalfa Third Cutting	73	64	67	83
Apple Harvested	16	12	19	29
Peach Harvested	60	55	85	78
Pears Harvested	51	48	54	69

**Soil Moisture  
for Week Ending September 13, 2009**

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	9	43	48	0
Subsoil	9	44	47	0
Irrigation water supplies	13	24	63	0
Stock water supplies	12	24	64	0

## Livestock Summary

**Box Elder** reports livestock producers are lining up their cattle to depart from summer ranges. Some producers will return to their fall pasture areas by the end of September and some will be back by the end of October. A good rainstorm would freshen the fall feed and help keep dust pneumonia down in cattle and sheep. Cattle and sheep look good and most producers have sold livestock on video auctions. Dairy producers continue to struggle with low milk prices. Feed costs have moderated some this summer but producers are still receiving milk prices below the cost of production. Some producers don't know how much longer they can sustain their operations. **Duchesne County** reports producers still have a few weeks before they begin to bring the cattle and sheep home from the summer range. Livestock has done very well and had lots of feed. Feed on summer range has started to lose quality and dry out. **Wayne County** reports Pasture land along the river bottoms is now showing signs of drought. The grass is gone and cattle are not gaining any weight, some producers have weaned their calves early, because of the drought conditions.

**Crop & Livestock Condition  
for Week Ending September 13, 2009**

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range & Pasture	2	10	36	44	8
Barley	0	0	8	70	22
Corn	0	0	28	56	16
Sheep	0	0	7	82	11
Cattle/calves	0	0	12	76	12

**Livestock Percent  
for Week Ending September 13, 2009**

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle Moved from Summer Range	16	13	15	30
Sheep/Lambs Moved from Summer Range	25	23	29	23