



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 31 Week Ending October 4, 2009

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Released October 5, 2009

Agricultural Summary

The first frost has hit many areas. Days suitable for work were 6.2 days. Crop and livestock conditions are doing well for this time of year.

Field Crops Summary

Box Elder County reports the first frost hit the county this week. A cold storm moved through on Wednesday. Not much precipitation fell but temperatures dipped below the freezing mark in many areas and brought the growing season to an end. Farmers continue to harvest alfalfa hay, alfalfa seed, corn silage, onions, and safflower in the county. Yields on most crops are good but a few alfalfa seed producers are reporting poor yields and the reason is unknown. Producers also continue to prepare and plant acreage to fall wheat. Grain corn harvest should begin shortly with high moisture acreage cut first. This corn will be ground into a meal like state and then ensiled for feed in dairy and feedlot rations. **Cache County** reports rainfall early in the week slowed harvest activities. Corn silage is the major focus of harvest this week. Yields are good, as is quality. Most producers are planting shorter season varieties, so most of the corn is mature and ready for harvest. With shorter days and cooler temperatures, any hay that is being harvested will be chopped for haylage instead of baled as dry hay. Winter wheat is also being planted and will benefit from recent rains. **Emery County** reports dry warm weather this past week has allowed producers to finish most harvesting of crops for the year. Some of the third crop hay is still being put up. Most fall seeded crops are planted and doing well. **Duchesne County** reports rain most of the day on Sunday. Hail was also reported in most areas, however, the hail was not enough to cause significant damage to crops. Temperatures have dropped below freezing about 4 nights this past week and the other nights were just above. Most of the corn silage in the county has been harvested and producers are getting ready to start harvesting corn silage. The last of the 3rd crop of hay is just being harvested and producers hope that it gets dry. The hay in the county that is for sale is not moving. **Morgan County** reports rain has interrupted 3rd cutting of alfalfa. Corn silage harvest is underway. **Uintah County** reports silage corn and 3rd crop alfalfa harvest are nearing completion. Farmers are beginning to harvest grain corn. Hard frost brings the growing season to a close this week for all areas. **Iron County** reports farmers are finishing up 3rd and 4th cuttings of alfalfa and making final irrigations for the season. **Beaver County** reports farmers are almost done with 3rd crop alfalfa. **Summit County** reports most farmers have finished harvesting crops this year due to hard frost, and fall tillage is still taking place.

Crop Progress
for Week Ending October 4, 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	77	61	66	77
Winter Wheat Planted	72	64	67	68
Corn Mature	77	58	60	70
Corn Grain Harvested	10	NA	NA	NA
Alfalfa Third Cutting	96	88	95	99
Alfalfa Fourth Cutting	44	20	26	58
Apple Harvested	61	36	48	62
Peach Harvested	91	81	96	98
Pears Harvested	80	75	89	95

Soil Moisture
for Week Ending October 4, 2009

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	7	32	61	0
Subsoil	15	31	54	0
Irrigation water supplies	16	24	60	0
Stock water supplies	9	21	70	0

Livestock Summary

Box Elder reports cattle and sheep are moving home from summer ranges. Sheep will move into crop residue fields to prepare the ewes for the breeding season in late October and November. Cattle producers are weaning and vaccinating calves in preparation for shipment to buyers. **Duchesne County** reports the producers started to bring a large number of cows home from the mountains. Cattle movement is expected to continue through the end of the month. Cows and calves are in very good shape and there seems to be plenty of feed left in most areas. **Iron County** reports sheep producers are busy shipping lambs. An extremely dry August and September have resulted in poor conditions on winter ranges in the area. **Uintah County** reports livestock producers are moving livestock off of summer ranges onto fall pastures, as well as weaning and shipping. **Summit County** reports sheep producers are shipping lambs to market. Cattle producers are starting to gather cattle off summer ranges and starting to ship calves to market.

**Crop & Livestock Condition
for Week Ending October 4, 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	4	14	39	40	3
Corn	0	0	24	65	11
Sheep	0	1	8	84	7
Cattle/calves	0	1	15	77	7

**Livestock Percent
for Week Ending October 4, 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	40	29	33	50
Sheep/Lambs Moved from Summer Range	53	29	44	50