



# Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 33 Week Ending October 18, 2009

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## Agricultural Summary

Harvest continues to wind down and most cattle and sheep have been moved from summer ranges. The beginning of the week brought some good rain showers to many parts of the state and the week finished up with above normal temperatures. There were 6.3 days suitable for field work.

## Field Crops Summary

**Box Elder County** reported that a rainstorm at the end of the previous week slowed fieldwork for short time at the beginning of the week. Producers are continuing to harvest crops. Most of the activity has switched to grain corn and safflower. Farmers are reporting good to excellent yields on both crops. Producers are also busy planting fall wheat as the harvest of other crops is completed. Some dry land farmers are re-drilling fall wheat on fields that crusted or did not get an adequate stand. Producers are hoping for some good moisture before winter to recharge the soil profile. Precipitation has been below average in most of the county the last two months. **Cache County** reported that safflower harvest is fully underway with some impressive yields. Some are finishing silage corn and a few growers are still chopping alfalfa hay. Most of the harvest is fully done for the year, however. Winter wheat is being planted and fall plowing and manure hauling is also keeping farmers busy. **Morgan County** reported that corn was late maturing and much of it was cut for silage before it was ready, due to frost. Some of the alfalfa crop was rain damaged this summer. The supply of feeder quality hay is high, keeping the price low. **Weber County** reported that the cropping season is about complete. There are a few alfalfa fields left to bale, a few onions to dig and the grain corn to cut. **Utah County** reported that the apple crop has been excellent and the peach crop was also very good. **Duchesne County** reported that temperatures have been very pleasant and it has allowed many producers to finish putting up the hay they had cut. Almost all of the corn silage harvest was finished up this week and the grain corn harvest is still a week or two away from beginning. Most of the fall grain in the county has been planted and could use some moisture to help it sprout. The soil is very dry. **Beaver County** reported that farm work is almost done for the year.

**Crop Progress  
for Week Ending October 18, 2009**

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat Planted	88	85	84	86
Corn Mature	94	90	86	89
Corn Grain Harvested	32	22	25	38
Alfalfa Fourth Cutting	81	66	57	81
Apple Harvested	92	74	62	78
Peach Harvested	95	94	100	100
Pears Harvested	91	83	100	100

**Soil Moisture  
for Week Ending October 18, 2009**

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	5	31	64	0
Subsoil	5	38	57	0
Irrigation water supplies	12	25	63	0
Stock water supplies	6	25	69	0

## Livestock Summary

**Box Elder County** reported that dairy farmers are a little more optimistic due to a slight bump in the price for milk and some good news on the futures for milk prices. Producers report they have a big deficit to dig out from which will take better milk prices for a long period to get them out of their financial problems. Cattle producers are busy moving cattle to fall ranges and weaning calves. Many cattle producers will begin to deliver calves to buyers in the next few weeks. Sheep producers have brought herds down from summer ranges. The herds are now entering crop residue fields (mainly alfalfa) to flush the ewes in preparation for the breeding season. **Cache County** reported cattle continue to do well with ample forage for grazing. Beef calves are being weaned and sold but prices are dropping again to the dismay of ranchers. Dairy producers are grateful for the upward trend of milk prices. **Morgan County** reported that Range livestock have done exceptionally well this summer and they wish the market was stronger. **Utah County** reported that range conditions have been excellent and in some areas producers were able to leave their cattle on the range 7 to 10 days longer. **Duchesne County** reported that many producers have most of the livestock home from the mountain and are just gathering up the stragglers. A few producers have until the end of the month before they will start to gather. **Beaver County** reported that producers are gathering cattle and bringing them home and selling calves. Also the deer hunt is on. **Wayne County** reported that range conditions are still very dry.

**Crop & Livestock Condition  
for Week Ending October 18, 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	34	44	10
Corn	0	0	25	59	16
Sheep	0	1	8	80	11
Cattle/calves	0	1	10	76	13

**Livestock Percent  
for Week Ending October 18, 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	76	62	65	76
Sheep/Lambs Moved from Summer Range	81	70	64	76