



# Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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## Agricultural Summary

Utah received several snow storms in February but most hit the central and southern parts of the state leaving northern Utah short on needed mountain snowpack. One weather station in northern Utah reported less than half of normal precipitation for the month of February. Temperatures in the state remained cold most of the month but warmed up some toward the end.

## Field Crops Summary

**Box Elder County** reports that producers are concerned that the lack of snowpack may cause some irrigation water shortages this summer. The Bear River Drainage is at 61 percent of normal as of March 1st. There are some areas with a fair amount of snow on the ground, however. Some producers are out spreading fly ash or graphite on the snow, although there is not a big concern about snow mold yet, producers do not want to take any chances. **Cache County** reports that no field work is being done yet. The ground is still covered with snow. Growers have been attending crop and livestock schools in recent weeks. Most are anxious to begin fieldwork, though there is concern about limited irrigation water because of limited snowpack. **Millard County** reports that farmers are just beginning to plant some crops. There have been several days of wet weather and muddy conditions are preventing some field work. **Utah County** reports that producers are getting some field work done when weather permits and fruit producers have been in the orchards pruning trees over the past couple of months. **Duchesne County** reports that producers are worried about the snow pack as little snow has fallen since December. Fields are still covered with 1 to 1.5 ft of snow and temperatures have been too cold to begin field work. There is not a lot of moisture in the ground, but the snow is melting a little and making it muddy in some spots. **Wayne County** reports that all fields are still covered in snow. With the ground still frozen, many farmers are applying fertilizer.

## Livestock Summary

**Box Elder County** reports that livestock producers are right in the middle of calving cows. Things appear to be going well and there have been no reports of unusual losses. Sheep producers that have farm flocks are lambing. Range flocks will not begin to lamb until the about mid April. **Cache County** reports that because of cooler, dry weather conditions, most cow/calf producers are enjoying a rather successful calving season. Farm flocks are doing quite well with their lambing also. **Utah County** reports that calving is starting for cattle producers. **Duchesne/Daggett Counties** report that most livestock producers have continued to feed their animals because the snow is still covering the ground. Many producers livestock started calving about the middle of the month. Some have lost calves and they feel is due to the cold weather and snow. Lambing is going well. **Garfield/Kane Counties** report that the snow in lower elevations is not melting and producers are reporting some cattle deaths. Excessive snow creates muddy conditions for calving which increase the likelihood of calf diseases and mortality. Range conditions should be very good, if temperatures increase creating good conditions for grass growth. **Wayne County** reports that some winter ranges are still covered in 8-18 inches of snow. Where the snow is the deepest, ranchers are having a difficult time finding their cattle. Where the snow has melted, ranchers cannot get out to find the herd because of the mud. About half the cows have calved. Cold and wet conditions have caused above normal mortality with some cow herds. Lambing will likely start in 15-20 days. About two thirds of the sheep have been shorn.