



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Agricultural Summary

Weather-wise March brought a variety of weather to Utah. Temperatures went back and forth with some warmer days and then more cold days. There were several snow storms but mostly in the mountains. The snow that fell in the valleys, usually melted by the end of the day. There were also some days of valley rainfall. Although Southern Utah received more precipitation this winter than Northern Utah, there is sufficient water storage in the reservoirs for irrigation this summer throughout the state. With some milder days crop producers have been able begin field preparation and planting.

Field Crops Summary

Box Elder and Cache Counties reported no news of winter wheat winterkill. Fieldwork is being done in preparation for spring planting. Some spring barley, wheat, and onions have already been planted. Soil conditions are very dry for this early in the season. Irrigators are concerned about the snowpack, because it is below average so far this year. There have been some reports of meadow vole damage in fields and yards, resulting from several weeks of snow cover. Numerous producers have been forced to spread poison wheat on their lands in an effort to get control of the burgeoning vole populations. **Weber, Utah, Morgan, and Salt Lake Counties** reported that herbicide and fertilizer applications were being made to alfalfa fields. Small grains were being planted. **Millard and Beaver Counties** reported that producers have been slow to get into the fields due to weekly storms, and below average temperatures. Some producers have been able to plant a variety of spring crops in between storms. **Duchesne and Uintah Counties** reported that the snow had melted by mid-month, which allowed farmers to begin field work. Producers are hoping for rain soon which would help reduce the risk of drought. **Emery and Grand Counties** reported that major field work has just gotten under way. Valley snow levels were well above normal and have just recently melted off of the fields. Mountain snowpack is below normal. Winter seeded annual crops are in good shape due to the moisture they received throughout winter. Apricots have just recently started blooming. **San Juan County** reports that many fields are still snow covered. There is some concern about winterkill and snow mold on the winter wheat, due to lingering snow cover. There should be a good amount of runoff in San Juan and Grand Counties. **Garfield, Kane, Wayne, Sevier, and Piute Counties** reported that snow has been melting and farmers have been getting ready to begin field work. In some areas of the counties field work is three weeks late than last year. Soils are too wet to plow in some fields, and snow still covers fields in higher elevations.

Livestock Summary

Box Elder County reported that livestock producers have seen a successful calving season thus far. Most report very few problems; the calves seem to be healthy and active. **Cache County** reported that beef producers have had near ideal weather for calving. Farm flocks have also enjoyed success in lambing. **Morgan and Utah Counties** reported that calving is nearing completion. There was one reported calf loss due to Bovine Virus Diarrhea. **Duchesne County** reported that some producers were affected by cold weather and lost a few calves at the beginning of the month. Lambs and calves are currently in good condition. **Uintah County** reported that cattle and sheep were in good to fair condition. **Garfield, Kane, and Wayne Counties** reported that as the snow melts producers are beginning to find dead livestock on the ranges. Total cattle death loss has not yet been determined; those figures will be recorded when the cattle are gathered and moved to the spring range.