



# Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 26 Week Ending September 4, 2011

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## Agricultural Summary

Days suitable for field work averaged 6.9. Day time temperatures were in the 90's most of the week. There were a few thunderstorms scattered throughout the state. Soil moisture content did not change much from the previous week but was significantly higher than the same time last year. This week's topsoil moisture content was at 3 percent very short, 23 percent short and 74 percent adequate.

## Field Crops Summary

The weather was mostly favorable in **Box Elder County** for the past week. A few dry thunderstorms sparked a lightning fire on the West Side of the Promontory Mountains. It burned about 5,000 acres. Farmers continue to cut and bale alfalfa hay fields. The majority of producers are finished with 3rd crop. Grouse Creek producers are just finishing 2nd crop as they have a much shorter growing season. Hay quality has been excellent and yields are reported to be average to a little above average. Prices have been over \$200 per ton for good, leafy green alfalfa at the hay compression plant south of Tremonton. Wheat producers in some areas are preparing fields for fall wheat planting. It has already been planted in other areas and already emerged in others. Safflower is done flowering and is in the drying down stage. Some fields will have to wait until after a frost to be harvested as green weeds are present in the field. Corn in the county is all tasseled and ears are forming and getting bigger. If the fall is normal without an early frost, most of the crop should be fine even though much of it was planted late. It may be a couple of weeks before farmers begin chopping silage corn. The onion crop is maturing and looking good but farmers are waiting for cooler weather to harvest. **Cache County** growers continue to harvest wheat, barley and 3rd crop alfalfa hay. Intermittent rain showers are temporally slowing the process. There is still plenty of irrigation water. Corn may not reach maturity before the first frost. **Utah County** peach harvest is down due to early frosts but tart cherry harvest was better than average. Winter wheat harvest is about half done. Harvest of irrigated barley, wheat and oats for grain is winding up. **Summit County** grass hay yields have been above average.

## Livestock Summary

Most **Box Elder County** cattle spend the summer outside of the county but producers report that they are doing well. Cattle in the county also continue to do well. Pastures have dried out

somewhat but there is still more green in the feed this year than there is in a normal year. Some cattle producers are treating cattle for flies. **Cache County** has plenty of forage on pastures and rangelands for livestock. Livestock conditions are excellent in **Utah County**. Range conditions are still very good but some areas are getting dry. **Summit County** livestock producers will start gathering lambs and calves for market during the next few weeks.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending September 4, 2011

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley Harvested (Grain)	86	83	NA	90
Oats Harvested (Grain)	68	53	76	78
Spring Wheat Harvested	82	65	NA	91
Winter Wheat Harvested	91	86	NA	97
Corn Silk Stage	96	91	100	100
Corn Dough Stage	34	19	73	75
Alfalfa Third Cutting	45	29	51	65
Peach Harvested	32	19	NA	54
Tart Cherries Harvested	98	93	100	100

### Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending September 4, 2011

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range & Pasture	0	1	12	60	27
Corn	1	5	31	57	6
Sheep	0	0	7	62	31
Cattle/calves	0	0	7	73	20

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending September 4, 2011

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	3	28	69	0
Subsoil	3	23	74	0
Irrigation water supplies	3	12	75	10
Stock water supplies	0	10	82	8