



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 4 Week Ending April 1, 2012

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Agricultural Summary

Days suitable for field work were 6. Utah has experienced a milder than normal winter which has been beneficial for farmers and ranchers. Producers across the state are concerned about the availability of water this coming crop year because of the dry winter. Extra warm weather for part of the week encouraged farmers to start planting spring crops. Warm weather has fruit producers concerned about trees budding too early and possible frost damage. Topsoil moisture content was rated 29 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

Field Crop Summary

Box Elder County farmers have been in the fields in between storms. Some small grains and most onions have been seeded. Producers are busy with spring tillage and fertilizing fields. Safflower seeding on dryland acreage has begun. Corn will be planted over the next two to four weeks. Some alfalfa fields are beginning to break dormancy. Hay prices have remained steady and may even get higher, due to a lack of moisture this year. In **Cache County** spring wheat and barley planting will begin as soon as fields are dry enough to plant. In **Carbon County** heavy spring winds combined with low precipitation has reduced topsoil moisture. Irrigation companies have started filling canals to make up for low precipitation. In **Duchesne County** alfalfa and grass have started growing, but the lack of rain has slowed growth. Ditches were being burned in **Beaver County** in order to prepare for irrigation. Spring field work was taking place.

Livestock Summary

Due to the relatively mild weather conditions, livestock producers across the State of Utah are having a good lambing and calving season. There have been few reported calf health problems in **Box Elder County**. Many are feeding alfalfa to boost milk production for calves. Livestock prices have been good. Most farm flocks of sheep have begun lambing. Range flocks are expected to begin lambing soon. In **Cache County** livestock have done exceptionally well throughout the winter. Lamb and calf death losses have been very low. A mild winter in **Duchesne County** has helped keep the livestock in good condition, with calving and lambing going well up to this point. Most **Emery County** sheep producers are out on the range and expect to begin lambing in April. Some sheep shearing has begun and activity is expected to pick up in the next few weeks. Calving on most area cattle operations is complete, and the rest are expected to finish up in the next few weeks.

Crop Progress for Week Ending April 1, 2012

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley Planted	21	20	20	43
Oats Planted	16	8	20	14
Spring Wheat Planted	42	NA	16	16

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending April 1, 2012

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	7	44	43	6
Winter Wheat	0	1	18	64	17
Sheep	0	0	7	71	22
Cattle/calves	0	0	9	72	19

Livestock Percent for Week Ending April 1, 2012

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cows Calved	61	40	59	42
Sheep Sheared on Farm	42	30	52	27
Sheep Sheared on Range	27	13	30	15
Ewes Lamed on Farm	45	25	45	38
Ewes Lamed on Range	19	15	11	19

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 1, 2012

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	29	67	4
Subsoil	0	30	68	2
Stock water supplies	0	10	90	0