



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

Utah Field Office · PO Box 25007 · Salt Lake City, Utah 84125
(800) 747-8522 · (801) 524-3090 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Issue 9 Week Ending May 6, 2012

John Hilton, Director

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Agricultural Summary

Days suitable for field work were 6.6 days. In Northern Utah the temperatures this week were typical for the first of May but cooled to below normal as a cold front moved through Friday night. Some areas of light frost were reported on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. In **Box Elder County** minimum temperatures were close to freezing several nights this past week but not enough to cause significant frost damage to fruit or alfalfa. **Cache County** reported two nights of freezing temperatures which caused concern for young alfalfa, fruit trees, and some other crops. Freezing temperatures have slowed growth of alfalfa and grass pastures in **Summit County**. The soil continues to dry out and concerns about irrigation water continue to increase. Topsoil moisture content was rated 32 percent short, and 63 percent adequate.

Field Crop Summary

Box Elder farmers continued to plant corn and irrigate fall wheat and alfalfa hay. Crop progress slowed with the cooler weather during the last part of the week. Alfalfa growth is progressing with average height. Farmers this week were also busy spraying weeds. Dryland farmers were finishing planting safflower. They were also busy plowing summer fallow or chemical fallowing. The dryland wheat crop continues to look good there is concern about rainfall which was spotty this week. Dry farm producers reported between one tenth and half an inch of rainfall. Alfalfa in **Beaver County** is looking good and is about 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule. Corn is being planted. In **Cache County** rain showers during the week continued to help crops that have been planted, but slowed the planting of corn. No insect outbreaks yet, though farmers anticipate some difficulties as soon as warm weather arrives. **Duchesne County** has reported a lack of moisture that continues throughout the county. Farmers in **Morgan** and **Weber Counties** are beginning to plant corn and crops are progressing well. **Summit County** farmers continued planting small grains and spraying weeds. In **Utah County** cool conditions have slowed crop growth. Dryland crops are in need of moisture. Range conditions are fair and some areas where there was early grass growth were reported to be very dry. Corn is being planted and other crops are reported to be in good condition.

Livestock Summary

In **Box Elder County** livestock producers are still reporting that their cattle are in good condition. Lamb producers with range flocks are in the middle of or are just beginning lambing. Several of the bigger producers moved their lambing back a couple of weeks to try to avoid losses due to spring storms that they have experienced the last couple of year. Most range sheep producers reported that they are shearing and are over half finished lambing. Summer ranges look good now but there is concern among cattle and sheep producers that the ranges may dry up if significant rainfall does not occur. **Beaver County** ranchers are turning out their livestock to summer pastures. In **Cache County** cattle and sheep are doing well on spring grass. **Duchesne County** producers

plan to transport livestock to summer pastures in the next week, when branding of calves is complete.

Crop Progress for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Item | Current Week | Previous Week | Previous Year | 5 Year Average |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Barley Emerged | 87 | 76 | 31 | 47 |
| Oats Planted | 86 | 80 | 53 | 67 |
| Oats Emerged | 57 | 48 | 20 | 32 |
| Spring Wheat Emerged | 91 | 80 | 30 | 56 |
| Corn Planted | 37 | 20 | 18 | 22 |
| Apple Full Bloom | 94 | 92 | 37 | 60 |

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending May 6, 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 | 4 | 42 | 52 | 2 |
| Spring Wheat | 0 | 0 | 15 | 66 | 19 |
| Winter Wheat | 0 | 0 | 31 | 48 | 21 |
| Barley | 0 | 0 | 6 | 69 | 25 |
| Oats | 0 | 0 | 7 | 86 | 7 |
| Sheep | 0 | 0 | 7 | 71 | 22 |
| Cattle/calves | 0 | 0 | 9 | 77 | 14 |

Livestock Percent for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Item | Current Week | Previous Week | Previous Year | 5-Year Average |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Cattle Moved to Summer Range | 12 | NA | NA | NA |
| Sheep Moved to Summer Range | 13 | NA | NA | NA |
| Sheep Sheared on Farm | 96 | 93 | 92 | 67 |
| Sheep Sheared on Range | 91 | 83 | 90 | 62 |
| Ewes Lambed on Farm | 95 | 93 | 94 | 93 |
| Ewes Lambed on Range | 62 | 60 | 65 | 64 |

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Item | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Topsoil | 0 | 32 | 68 | 0 |
| Subsoil | 0 | 37 | 63 | 0 |
| Irrigation water supplies | 3 | 14 | 82 | 1 |
| Stock water supplies | 2 | 15 | 82 | 1 |

Freeze Damage for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Item | None | Light | Moderate | Severe |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Fruit | 6 | 31 | 45 | 18 |