



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 16 Week Ending June 24, 2012

John Hilton, Director

Released June 25, 2012

Agricultural Summary

During the past week there was a reported 6.9 days suitable for field work. Hot temperatures and dry winds were common throughout the state. Frost damage earlier in the season combined with the recent heat has made it hard for crops to recover. Many dryland crop conditions are very poor with some being abandoned while irrigated crop conditions are fair but water supplies are a concern. Although livestock is reported in good condition throughout the state, pasture is drying up quickly. Fire danger because of dry conditions was reported in **Utah County**.

Field Crop Summary

In **Box Elder County**, farmers are scrambling to keep crops watered. Canal companies have reported consistent flows but demand is up. Dryland farmers are planning to harvest wheat early this year because warmer weather and lack of precipitation. Wheat yields are expected to be lower this year and there is concern about low test weights. The dryland alfalfa crop was only about 30 percent of last year's crop. In some cases farmers abandoned their dryland alfalfa. The second cutting of alfalfa has started in the south part of the county. The corn is growing out of the frost damage that occurred two weeks ago and is starting to look much better. Alfalfa weevil, army worms, and grasshoppers are the main pest concerns in the county. Farmers in **Cache County** are working hard to keep water on crops as irrigation companies are working at capacity. Alfalfa weevil infestations have declined significantly, corn is growing well where water is applied, and farmers are beginning to cut second crop alfalfa. **Beaver County** farmers are just finishing their first crop of alfalfa and reporting lower tonnage due to frost, grasshoppers and lack of water. In **Morgan County**, repeated frost this spring have set back the range forage and dryland crops. Little forage will be harvested from these areas this summer. **Summit County** producers are expecting their first crop of hay to be lighter due to frost damage. Many are cutting their alfalfa early due to stunted growth and lack of water. In **Iron County**, winter wheat is showing frost damage in some fields. Irrigation companies in **Carbon County** are beginning to cut back on amounts of water delivered and warn of a shortened season. **Utah County** irrigated crops are in fair to good condition while dryland crop conditions are very poor. Fruit crops are in fair shape, however, sweet cherries, peaches and apricots suffered early frost damage. Producers are currently harvesting sweet cherries.

Livestock Summary

Box Elder County ranchers report both their cattle and sheep are doing well but report that the grass on lower ranges is limited and that in some areas higher elevation pastures are very dry. Ranchers anticipate bringing livestock home early unless some substantial moisture is received. In **Cache County**, cattle and sheep are in fair condition, though grazing lands are in desperate need of rain. **Summit County** ranchers are moving livestock on summer range to higher country three to four weeks earlier due to lower forage drying out quicker. In **GARFIELD** and **KANE** counties, range conditions are deteriorating fast and the potential for wild fire is looming. Cattle producers are projecting lower calf weaning weights this fall. **Beaver County's** livestock is reported as good while rangeland in **Iron County** continues to rapidly dry out. **Wayne County's** summer ranges and sub-irrigated pasture are already in late summer condition. **Utah County's** pasture is also in later summer condition with fire an extreme concern. Cattle and sheep in **Carbon County** are being held off Forest Service summer range for as much as 30 more days because of the lack of forage due to dry conditions.

Crop Progress for Week Ending June 24, 2012

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley Headed Stage	90	81	42	66
Oats Headed Stage	56	45	21	40
Spring Wheat Headed	88	59	16	45
Winter Wheat Headed	99	92	84	89
Alfalfa First Cutting	89	84	68	75
Other Hay Cut	58	53	41	42
Apricots Harvested	23	12	NA	NA
Sweet Cherries Harvested	33	27	NA	NA

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending June 24, 2012

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Range & Pasture	8	31	35	26	0
Spring Wheat	1	12	35	42	10
Winter Wheat	6	28	28	30	8
Barley	0	2	22	57	19
Oats	0	5	22	69	4
Corn	0	4	30	54	12
Sheep	0	0	13	64	23
Cattle/calves	0	2	17	64	17

Livestock Percent for Week Ending June 24, 2012

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cattle Moved to Summer Range	92	87	89	91

Soil Moisture for Week Ending June 24, 2012

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	28	35	37	0
Subsoil	18	48	34	0
Irrigation water supplies	19	27	54	0
Stock water supplies	10	28	62	0

Crop Development for Week Ending June 24, 2012

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn Height	18	14	10	NA