For the week ending August 12, 2012 there was a reported 6.8 days suitable for field work. Dry conditions continue to be dominant over most of the state. However, some areas received considerable rain Friday night. Iron and nearby counties are dealing with the effects of heavy rain fall. Irrigation water is running out in northern counties which may have a serious effect on the corn crop. Many producers in the state expect to either sell or feed out their cattle starting next month.

Field Crop Summary

In Box Elder County producers are busy baling straw and alfalfa hay and are irrigating corn and alfalfa as needed. Third crop alfalfa is reported in good condition. No burning of stubble has occurred this year due to the fire ban. Some farmers have worked their wheat stubble and are planning to irrigate the fields if possible to get enough moisture to plant fall wheat. Farmers on non irrigated acreage are waiting for a rain to get enough moisture to plant. There is little to no moisture in the planting depth range of their soil and even deeper in some cases. Winter wheat harvest is nearing completion with reported yields being variable but quality of wheat is reported as good. Spider mites have been a problem in many corn fields. The onion crop is reported in good condition as onions are beginning to mature. Irrigation water is disappearing quickly in Cache County with water supplies now virtually gone. Small grain yields have been respectable, irrigated alfalfa and corn are in good condition. Soil conditions are extremely dry. Beaver County producers are between 2nd and 3rd cuttings of hay depending on location and corn condition is reported to be good. In Duchesne County, irrigation water is running out during a critical time for corn producers. Corn in the county is in the tassel stage and is reported in good condition at this time. The third cutting of hay has begun and is reported to be in better condition than previous cuttings. In Iron County, much of the 2nd crop of alfalfa was down when it rained.

Livestock Summary

In Box Elder County, the lack of moisture continues to be a concern for livestock producers. They will be coming off of summer ranges in mid to late September and producers are very concerned about having any pasture when they bring livestock home. Concerns about expected hay prices are motivating ranchers to cull cattle and ship lambs and calves earlier than normal. Cache County cattle and sheep producers are very concerned about having adequate fall grazing for their livestock. In Iron County, heavy rains continue to improve soil moisture and range conditions with warm season grasses responding well. Although mountain ranges in Duchesne County have been receiving considerable moisture, producers are concerned about adequate winter moisture for next year. Producers are expecting to either feed their livestock in September or sell out. In Beaver County, livestock are reported in good condition.