Agricultural Summary

For the week ending August 19th, 2012 there was a reported 6.8 days suitable for field work. Rain in Carbon and Duchesne counties, although light, improved range conditions. Irrigation companies throughout the state are either placing restrictions or cutting off water supplies altogether.

Field Crop Summary

Box Elder County producers in Blue Creek and Pocatello Valleys are in the final stages of their wheat harvest, yields have been reported as fair with consideration to this season’s hot and dry temperatures. Producers continue to bale and remove their third cutting of alfalfa. Fruit producers are having a better harvest than anticipated with some producers reporting a good cherry crop and peach harvest beginning as much as two weeks early. Irrigated safflower is reported to be in good condition while dryland safflower is reported fair at best. Cache County producers are concluding their wheat and barley harvest while third cutting alfalfa is well underway. Irrigated corn continues to do well but several irrigation companies are imposing significant water restrictions and many producers have had to spray for spider mites. Fall planting is on hold in the area due to dry soil. In Carbon County, crops are reported in good condition but canal water is expected to be shut off by the end of August. Irrigation water is also being shut off in Duchesne County where producers are concerned about having adequate water to finish their crops.

Livestock Summary

In Box Elder County, cattle continue to graze on summer ranges. Some sheep producers are reporting that they will be shipping lambs to buyers earlier than normal because feed and water are in short supply. Prices continue to be good for lambs although they are a little lower than last year’s record prices. In Carbon and Duchesne Counties, recent mountain rains have helped relieve dry conditions on summer ranges. Most of the hay being used in the area has been shipped in because of poor hay production in the county this year.