



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 02 Week Ending February 24, 2013

John Hilton, Director

Released February 25, 2013

Agricultural Summary

In **Box Elder County** the month of January brought several good snow storms. In many areas the valley snowpack is 1 foot or more. February has been a snowy and cold month in the Bear River Valley. Two major storms and several smaller ones hit the county and dropped several inches of snow. Snow depth on the ground in much of the county is currently about 15 to 20 inches. Temperatures have been below normal by 10 to 15 degrees for both daytime highs and overnight lows. Even with all of the snow at the lower elevations, the storms have not produced very much snow in the mountains. Current snowpack information from NRCS shows the Bear River drainage at 80 percent of normal water content in the snowpack. **Carbon County** reports that the snowpack is still below average and reservoir levels are still very low. Storms that hit northern Utah did not do much for the Mountains above Carbon County. **Duchesne County** farmers are worried about the coming year as the reservoirs are empty and to fill them, we will need an exceptional water year. The snowpack is running at about 80%. **Iron County** reports normal to above normal precipitation has soil moisture in good shape.

Livestock Summary

In **Box Elder County** the main activity for February has been feeding cattle and calving. Many livestock producers report more calves lost than normal this year due to the deep snow and cold night time temperatures. Around the clock care is needed to help the calves survive when they are born. Hay is expensive and hard to find. Many are hoping for a break in the weather so feed demands will diminish and help their feed stocks last through the feeding period. Many producers are optimistic about the amount of snow received, hoping that the grass will get a good start as the weather warms. **Duchesne County** reports feed costs continue to be very high and could get worse, due to the continuation of the drought. In **Iron County** cold and muddy conditions are reported, which makes the start of calving a little difficult.

Field Crop Summary

Some producers in **Box Elder County** have applied ash or graphite to fields of fall wheat and land that they intend to plant to onions. They are trying to reduce the amount of snow cover so they will be able to plant sooner or avoid any snow mold that may be developing under the snow cover. Much of the wheat that was planted last fall didn't grow as tall as normal because it was planted later than normal. There haven't been reports of snow mold yet.