



CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Released: 2:00 p.m., Monday
April 24, 2006

Week of April 17 – April 23, 2006

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm, windy week.

Small grain progress behind average pace.

Irrigation water supplies mostly adequate.

Warm, mostly dry, and windy conditions dominated the State last week. Stations reported above normal temperatures while precipitation remained below normal for the most part. Temperatures ranged widely with high temperatures mostly in the mid 60's to upper 70's, and lows in the teens to upper 20's. Precipitation was mostly below normal across the State but areas in the extreme Northeast experienced heavy snows. Another system moved across the State over the weekend bringing scattered rain and snow.

Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to surplus in 53 percent of the State, unchanged from last week. Irrigation water supply was rated adequate to surplus in 83 percent of the State. Moisture supplies have improved slightly over both last year and the 5-year average but producers look for more spring moisture to help cool season grasses and improve irrigation supplies. Small grain progress has fallen behind the average pace.

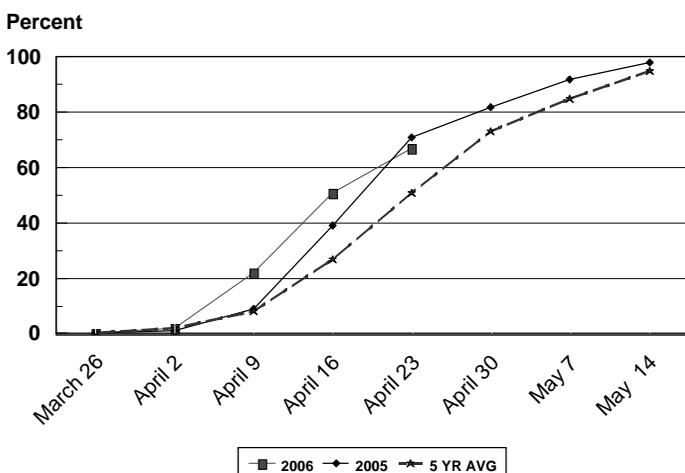
SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

TOPSOIL	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Percent				
Very Short	5	6	18	15
Short	42	41	30	39
Adeq	51	51	50	45
Surp	2	2	2	1

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

ITEM	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Barley Pltd	69	60	72	72
Barley Emgd	30	22	23	27
Oats Pltd	28	19	44	33
Oats Emgd	6	1	11	8
Spring Wheat Pltd	23	16	39	37
Spring Wheat Emgd	2	0	7	8
Winter Wheat Joint	3	0	2	2
Sugarbeet Pltd	67	51	71	51
Sugarbeet Emgd	2	1	1	2
Corn Pltd	1	0	0	5

Sugarbeets Planted



FIELD CROP REPORT: An average of 5.1 days were suitable for fieldwork during the past week. The winter wheat crop was just beginning to joint and condition fell slightly with 71 percent rated good. Small grain seeding made little progress and continued to lag behind. Barley had been planted on 69 percent of the expected acreage, behind both last year and the average, while emergence remained a little ahead of the average pace. Producers finished seeding 28 percent of the oats and 23 percent of the spring wheat, both behind the 5-year average. Sugarbeet planting progressed to 67 percent in the ground, approximately 16 points ahead of average. Sugarbeets were just starting to emerge. A few producers started planting corn.

CROP CONDITION TABLE

ITEM	V POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
Percent					
Winter Wht	0	2	27	71	0

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Spring Calves Born	83	77	83	83
Farm Flock Ewes Lambed	82	74	87	86
Farm Flock Sheep Shorn	84	73	90	86
Range Flock Ewes Lambed	25	22	28	25
Range Flock Sheep Shorn	50	34	59	56

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT: Range and pasture conditions continued to be better than the last few years with 42 percent rated good and zero excellent, compared with 13 percent good and 4 percent excellent last year. However, producers need more spring moisture to sustain cool season grasses. Calving continued at an average pace with 83 percent of the calves on the ground. Farm flock lambing and shearing, at 82 and 84 percent complete, were slightly behind both last year and the 5-year average. Range flock lambing and shearing were 25 and 50 percent complete, compared with the averages of 25 and 56 percent. Calf and lamb losses remained mostly normal.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED

ITEM	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Percent				
Very Poor	2	3	37	19
Poor	11	9	20	26
Fair	45	48	26	39
Good	42	40	13	15
Excellent	0	0	4	1

WEATHER SUMMARY: Temperatures during the week ending Friday, April 21st, were above normal across the State with exceptions in the Southwest. Averages ranged from 2.4 degrees below normal in Evanston to 6.9 degrees above normal in Wheatland. The high temperature was 80 in Newcastle, Redbird, and Wheatland while the low was 12 in Big Piney. Precipitation varied across the State with only scattered stations reporting above normal precipitation mostly in the extreme Northeast which had heavy snow. The most precipitation was reported in Sundance with 2.65 inches, Newcastle with 1.70 inches, and Lander with 0.69 inches. Many stations in the Southeast reported only a trace or no precipitation at all.

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 21, 2006

TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION					
STATION	MAX	MIN	NORM	WEEK	NORM	DATE	WEEK	NORM
SNAKE DRAINAGE								
Afton	64	18	-2.1	0.49	0.09	4.96	5.34	-0.38
GREEN & BEAR DRAINAGE								
Uinta County AP	64	16	-2.4	0.20	-0.07	2.02	3.02	-1.00
Big Piney AP	65	12	2.0	0.17	0.05	1.53	1.58	-0.05
Rock Springs AP	66	19	-0.9	0.24	-0.02	1.64	2.63	-0.99
BIG HORN DRAINAGE								
Cody	73	29	3.3	0.15	-0.14	0.73	2.01	-1.28
Deaver	72	24	0.4	0.07	-0.04	0.80	0.72	0.08
Greybull AP	77	28	1.4	0.08	-0.09	0.21	1.50	-1.29
Powell Field St	75	26	2.3	0.09	-0.06	0.28	0.94	-0.66
Worland FAA AP	78	28	0.4	0.12	-0.10	0.55	1.49	-0.94
POWDER, LITTLE MO. & TONGUE DRAINAGE								
Kaycee	76	28	4.3	0.15	-0.24	2.06	2.70	-0.64
Sheridan WSO AP	76	32	3.3	0.28	-0.16	2.21	3.54	-1.33
BELLE FOURCHE DRAINAGE								
Dillinger	76	27	3.4	0.30	-0.12	2.65	2.96	-0.31
Sundance	75	26	3.5	2.65	2.09	5.27	3.96	1.31
CHEYENNE & NIOBRARA DRAINAGE								
Newcastle	80	29	3.4	1.70	1.29	3.88	2.97	0.91
Redbird	80	24	4.1	0.00	-0.48	2.42	2.91	-0.49
LOWER PLATTE DRAINAGE								
Casper AP	76	25	3.4	0.46	0.07	2.91	3.22	-0.31
Cheyenne AP	75	26	4.5	T	-0.39	2.12	3.07	-0.95
Chugwater	77	27	3.3	T	-0.40	3.12	3.29	-0.17
Douglas AP	78	25	5.5	0.09	-0.31	1.62	2.86	-1.24
Torrington AP	79	27	4.4	T	-0.40	1.64	2.60	-0.96
Wheatland 4 N	80	25	6.9	0.00	-0.37	1.79	2.17	-0.38
WIND RIVER DRAINAGE								
Lander AP	71	19	1.9	0.69	0.19	2.60	3.78	-1.18
Riverton AP	71	28	3.3	0.13	-0.14	2.04	1.70	0.34
UPPER PLATTE DRAINAGE								
Laramie AP	67	18	2.6	0.01	-0.24	0.45	2.44	-1.99
Rawlins AP	67	19	2.4	0.02	-0.24	0.90	2.49	-1.59
Saratoga	75	20	3.4	0.04	-0.19	1.44	2.39	-0.95

BLANKS - INDICATE MISSING DATA.

AP - AIRPORT. T - TRACE. () - ESTIMATES.

1/LATE REPORTS CAN CHANGE PREVIOUS WEEK'S CUMULATIVE TOTALS.