

# western range and livestock



April 1, 1971

17 Western States

Release:  
April 14, 1971  
3:00 P.M. EST

Range feed condition on April 1 in the 17 Western States was below a year earlier and also below the 10-year average, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Warmer weather during March has been beneficial to most ranges except those in the South and Southwest where rain is needed badly.

Livestock are in fair to good condition. Condition of cattle and calves on April 1 was lower than last year and also lower than the 10-year average. Sheep condition was the same as last month, but below last year and the 10-year average.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Range feed condition at 70 percent on April 1 was 8 points below last year and 5 points below average.

Range conditions in the North and part way down the coastline are progressing fairly well. The South and Southwest areas are very dry and range conditions are far below normal in these areas.

CATTLE CONDITION: Condition of cattle and calves at 78 percent on April 1 was 5 points below last year and 3 points below average. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in many areas, particularly in the South and Southwest where ranges are supplying very little feed at this time. Calving is progressing fairly well with no unusual losses to date.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: April 1 sheep condition at 80 percent was unchanged from a month earlier, but is 4 points below last year and 2 points below average. Spring lambing is well underway in most States.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: April 1 goat condition, at 70 percent, declined 2 points from March 1. This is 14 points below a year ago and 9 points below the 10-year average.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD  
MtAn 2-3 (4-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

CONDITIONS, APRIL 1, 1971, WITH COMPARISONS  
 EQUIVALENTS OF REPORTED CONDITIONS: Below 60, bad; 60-69, poor; 70-79,  
 fair; 80-89, good; 90-99, very good; and 100 and over is excellent

State	RANGE FEED				CATTLE				SHEEP			
	:10 yr.:		:		:10 yr.:		:		:10 yr.:		:	
	: av. :	:April:March:	:April:April:	: av. :	:April:March:	:April:April:	: av. :	:April:March:	:April:April:			
:1960-:	:1970 :1971:	:1971:	:1960-:	:1970 :1971:	:1971:	:1960-:	:1970 :1971:	:1971:	:1960-:	:1970 :1971:	:1971:	
:1969 :	:	:	:1969 :	:	:	:1969 :	:	:	:1969 :	:	:	
N. D.	: 69	70	68	69	: 82	83	83	83	: 82	83	83	83
S. D. (West.)	: 74	73	69	74	: 81	84	81	82	: 82	84	82	82
Nebr. (West.)	: 79	81	74	76	: 84	86	83	82	:			
Kans. (West.)	: 74	78	67	72	: 81	83	77	79	: 82	84	77	80
Okla.	: 74	75	68	65	: 78	80	77	75	:			
Texas	: 76	81	64	60	: 78	82	75	73	: 79	85	72	72
Mont.	: 71	73	72	75	: 83	85	85	85	: 83	86	85	85
Idaho	: 80	79	80	82	: 85	86	85	84	: 86	86	85	84
Wyo.	: 74	71	76	74	: 84	83	83	84	: 84	84	85	85
Colo.	: 76	79	77	78	: 82	83	84	85	: 84	84	85	87
N. Mex.	: 76	76	73	69	: 79	79	79	76	: 80	80	80	77
Ariz.	: 77	77	71	66	: 79	78	75	71	: 79	75	76	74
Utah	: 76	77	76	76	: 82	84	83	83	: 82	85	83	83
Nev.	: 75	78	76	79	: 81	85	82	82	: 82	84	80	81
Wash.	: 77	80	71	73	: 83	85	83	83	: 85	86	86	85
Oreg.	: 79	84	76	78	: 83	85	82	81	: 83	86	83	84
Calif.	: 80	83	77	76	: 83	83	81	80	: 85	86	85	84
Western	:				:				:			
Range States:	75	78	71	70	: 81	83	79	78	: 82	84	80	80

#### DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Range feed condition improved one point during March. Snow cover was spotty on April 1 with many areas reporting bare ground. Most areas except the north central and northeast part of the State are in need of moisture. Supplies of hay and roughage are mostly adequate except for a few localized areas. Calving and lambing have started with early reports good.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed condition improved 5 percentage points during March and on April 1 was one point above a year earlier. Although condition has improved substantially, grazing has been limited as ranges are quite short. Warm weather melted the snow cover, providing adequate topsoil moisture to start the grass and filling stock dams throughout the State. Cattle and sheep are in good condition with calving underway and lambing nearing completion. Some abnormal abortion losses reported in cattle.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Temperatures in Nebraska's range area averaged near normal during March. Precipitation almost entirely in the form of snow was well above normal in the Panhandle and near normal in the Sandhills and southwest. Storm conditions occurred on March 18 over the entire range with snow and high winds, but temperatures were not cold enough to classify it as a blizzard. Moisture supplies are adequate to start new grass, but subsoil moisture is still short in a few areas due to the dry summer and fall last year. Several storms during the month were rough on young calves, but the moisture was very welcome. Most ranchers are in the middle of calving operations.

KANSAS (WESTERN): April 1 condition of range feed in the western two-thirds of Kansas was 72 percent, improved considerably from last month but a little below average and 6 points below a year ago. Use was made of fall crop residues, and wheat pasture provided some feed when weather permitted. Old feed on ranges was grazed down in many areas making supplemental feeding necessary. Feed is being trucked into some areas. Moisture will be needed in western areas to insure a good start of new grass. The condition of cattle and sheep was improved from last month but was below last year.

OKLAHOMA: Spring growth of new grass in Oklahoma was nearly nonexistent on April 1, following a very dry month. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal in March, and high winds took most topsoil moisture. Rains are needed in all sections of the State to set off new growth. Range conditions are equal to the low rating of 1967 and the lowest since 1955. Wheat acreage has provided fair grazing but stock are being removed from fields left for harvest. Feed supplies are short to barely ample. Marketings have been moderate; but without rain, forced sales are expected.

TEXAS: Texas range feed and livestock conditions again declined during March. Drouth conditions continued to prevail over most of the State and caused increasing concern among farmers and ranchers. The 60 percent range condition reported for April 1 is the lowest range condition reported for April since records began in 1923. Shortage of hay is reaching the critical level in most of the State. Supplemental feeding has prevented livestock conditions from a rapid decline, but limited feed intake is beginning to be reflected in declining condition of livestock. Cattlemen are still feeding hay and supplement, and hauling water as they continue to cull their herds, attempting to hold their better breeding stock. Prices remain strong with auctions reporting some of the heaviest runs of the year.

MONTANA: Temperatures were near normal during March, with no major storms. Cattle and sheep came through the winter in good condition. Grazing was fairly open. Nearly all livestock received some type of supplemental feed throughout most of the month. Hay supplies are adequate in all areas. Calving and lambing are making good progress. Calves and lambs are healthy, with death losses below normal.

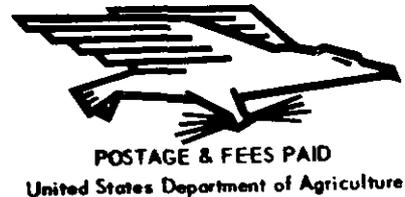
IDAHO: Ranges continued to be in very good condition for this date. Another month of above normal precipitation made soil moisture supplies excellent. Temperatures were generally near normal or below. Grass growth in a few localities was slowed by the cold temperatures. Cattle are in good condition for this time of the year and calving operations are in "full swing." Turning cattle out on public domain land is on schedule and is a major activity of many ranchers. Sheep are also in good condition. Lambing operations progressed well and are about three-fourths completed. Shearing operations are well underway in the southwest and southcentral portions of the State and are just getting started in the east.

WYOMING: Range feed condition declined 2 points from a month earlier while the livestock condition remains good. The good condition of livestock is the result of supplemental feeding which is widespread throughout the State.

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COLORADO: Colorado range feed condition was fair to good on April 1, 1971. Cattle and sheep condition remained good throughout all areas of the State.

NEW MEXICO: Serious drouth conditions pervail throughout the State. No appreciable moisture was received during March. Stock water shortage is becoming a problem. Forced marketings are becoming apparent. Supplemental feeding is general. Calving is well underway and lambing is expected to be underway by mid-April. There were no unusual death losses reported.

ARIZONA: The condition of range feed declined 5 points during March and is the lowest April 1 condition since 1925. With virtually no rain and above average temperatures, loss of soil moisture has been high. A little greening was reported at the higher elevations but spring rains will be needed to keep the grass growing. Many ranchers have been supplemental feeding and pumping and hauling stock water, which has held livestock in fair condition. No unusual death losses have been reported.

UTAH: Utah's precipitation averaged 40 percent of normal during March. Some cattle and sheep have started moving off winter ranges. Calving is approximately 50 percent complete. Lambing of range sheep is well underway. No unusual death losses have been reported.

NEVADA: Range feed condition increased slightly during March but remains fair to good. A warming trend the last half of March was beneficial to growth of grass and other browse on the range. However, additional moisture will be needed to maintain the favorable spring range prospects. Cattle and calves continue in good condition. Death losses have been light but losses of baby calves have been increasing due to coyotes. Calving and lambing were in full swing during March. Stock water and feed supplies are generally adequate.

WASHINGTON: Cold, wet weather during March generally retarded early season range and pasture forage production. Heavy snow cover remains at high elevations and soil moisture supplies are good Statewide. Hay and feed supplies are adequate until new grass is available. Cattle and sheep condition remain good with calving progressing well and lambing nearly done. Sheep shearing has started.

OREGON: March weather was cold and wet. Range feed growth is 10-14 days behind normal. Most livestock still receiving hay on April 1. Hay supplies are short in most areas. Livestock continue in good condition. Calving progressed well during March. Sheep condition is improving as valley pastures green-up.

CALIFORNIA: Weather generally was favorable for range grass growth during March. Grasses provided the main feed source for stock on range. Supplemental feeding was limited to northern counties and scattered areas in the southern portion of the State. Snow pack remains at high elevations. Heavy movement of livestock expected in April in south: to feedlots, irrigated pastures and mountain meadows. Summer grazing outlook rated poor in southern half of State but good in northern California. Additional rain needed soon to maintain grass growth. Livestock presently rated in good condition.