

western range and livestock

October 1, 1971



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Range feed condition in the 17 Western States was unchanged from September 1, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The 17-State average had improved 4 points during August following a 2 point drop in July. Rain during September improved range feed conditions in the Northern and Southern Great Plains, as well as the Pacific Regions. However, range feed conditions deteriorated or held the same in most remaining areas, especially the Inter-Mountain Regions.

Condition of livestock on October 1 averaged good in the 17 Western States. Movement of livestock to fall and winter ranges was in progress. Cattle condition was improved but sheep condition showed a slight decline.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Range feed conditions showed variability among States but averaged the same as September 1 in the 17 Western States. The reported condition of 80 percent was 1 point above last year but the same as the 10-year average.

Rains in September generally improved range feed conditions in the Pacific Region and North and South Central Regions of the country. Texas had the highest October 1 condition recorded in the State for the last five years. Stockwater ponds and soil moisture were replenished by widespread heavy rains in North Dakota which ended a summer-long dry spell.

Range feed conditions held steady or declined in the Southwest and Inter-Mountain Region. Late rains in some areas failed to provide October 1 improvement in range feed. Snow at higher elevations and cooler weather has reduced growth on much of the range. Cattle are moving to fall and winter ranges.

CATTLE CONDITION: Cattle and calf condition improved from September 1. Condition of 86 percent was 1 point above last month, 2 points above last year and 1 point above the 10 year average. Most of the increase was in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Other States held steady or declined. Some States reported calves at lighter weights than normal. About 50 percent of the expected cattle and calf fall marketings were sold or contracted by October 1. This compares with 44 percent as of October 1, 1970 and 47 percent on October 1, 1969.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
MtAn 2-3 (10-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Condition of sheep and lambs on October 1 was 85 percent, 1 point below last month, the same as last year but 1 point above the 10 year average. Declines occurred in Western Kansas, Texas, Nevada, Oregon and California. Sheep are moving to lower elevation ranges in mountain regions. Lambing has started in southern California. The percent of lambs marketed or contracted by October 1 was 62, compared with 60 percent last year and 65 percent on October 1, 1969.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Goat condition at 86 percent was the same as last month but is 4 points above a year ago and 3 points above the 10 year average.

CONDITIONS, OCTOBER 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. :	: Oct. :	: Sept.:	: Oct. :	: av. :	: Oct. :	: Sept.:	: Oct. :	: av. :	: Oct. :	: Sept.:	: Oct. :
	:1960-:	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :	:1960-:	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :	:1960-:	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :
N. D.	: 78	: 77	: 71	: 76	: 86	: 85	: 85	: 86	: 86	: 85	: 84	: 85
S. D. (West.)	: 80	: 78	: 78	: 84	: 86	: 84	: 85	: 87	: 87	: 85	: 86	: 87
Nebr. (West.)	: 82	: 72	: 80	: 83	: 87	: 84	: 87	: 88	:	:	:	:
Kans. (West.)	: 80	: 73	: 78	: 74	: 85	: 81	: 83	: 88	: 84	: 81	: 84	: 83
Okla.	: 82	: 75	: 79	: 80	: 85	: 81	: 84	: 84	:	:	:	:
Texas	: 81	: 83	: 86	: 87	: 84	: 85	: 85	: 87	: 82	: 83	: 87	: 86
Mont.	: 79	: 82	: 74	: 77	: 87	: 88	: 85	: 86	: 86	: 88	: 85	: 85
Idaho	: 78	: 79	: 80	: 79	: 86	: 86	: 86	: 87	: 86	: 86	: 85	: 85
Wyo.	: 79	: 81	: 81	: 79	: 87	: 87	: 87	: 87	: 86	: 88	: 87	: 87
Colo.	: 81	: 82	: 79	: 79	: 86	: 86	: 85	: 86	: 87	: 88	: 85	: 86
N. Mex.	: 82	: 78	: 80	: 79	: 86	: 84	: 82	: 83	: 86	: 85	: 81	: 83
Ariz.	: 79	: 80	: 80	: 80	: 83	: 84	: 80	: 82	: 81	: 79	: 75	: 76
Utah	: 78	: 80	: 78	: 76	: 84	: 86	: 85	: 85	: 85	: 86	: 84	: 85
Nev.	: 77	: 79	: 86	: 81	: 84	: 86	: 86	: 86	: 85	: 87	: 89	: 87
Wash.	: 77	: 75	: 81	: 81	: 85	: 84	: 87	: 87	: 86	: 85	: 86	: 88
Oreg.	: 77	: 76	: 80	: 80	: 84	: 84	: 87	: 86	: 84	: 85	: 88	: 87
Calif.	: 75	: 72	: 77	: 72	: 82	: 82	: 83	: 80	: 85	: 84	: 86	: 85
Western Range States	: 80	: 79	: 80	: 80	: 85	: 84	: 85	: 86	: 84	: 85	: 86	: 85

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Condition of range feed averaged 76 percent, an improvement of 5 points from September 1 and ranges from fair to good over the State. Widespread rains relieved the summer-long dry spell and revived pastures which were not overgrazed. Improved grazing enabled livestock to remain in good condition without requiring much supplemental feeding. Water supplies in ponds and dams were replenished from the rains. No unusual death losses were reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed conditions on October 1 improved 6 percentage points during September. Cool weather and scattered showers improved the quality of grass. With an above average wild hay crop, feed supplies appear adequate for a normal winter. Stock water supplies are generally adequate. Cattle and calf condition was up 2 percentage points and sheep and lamb condition was up 1 percentage point above last month as a result of favorable weather conditions in September. Fall marketings of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs are below the 1970 level.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in September raised the October 1 range feed condition to 83 points, 11 points above a year ago and slightly above average. Freezing weather occurred in the September 19-21 period in the northwest with some snow. Cattle condition at 88 was above a year ago and 1 point above the 10 year average. There has been a small amount of supplemental feeding.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed condition in the western two-thirds of Kansas was 74 percent of normal on October 1, moderately below average. Ranges in most areas suffered from dry weather in early September, and rains later in the month, though helpful, were not sufficient to greatly improve prospects for winter grazing. Many ranchers indicated that range feed would be a little short this winter. Cattle condition was generally good in most areas and stock water was adequate to meet demand. Some 31 percent of expected fall cattle marketings were sold or contracted before October 1, a little more than usual. Sheep condition was about average.

OKLAHOMA: General rains and cool weather the last half of September have greatly improved the outlook for fall and winter range feed in Oklahoma. Wheat seeding has been delayed and this could cut into wheat pasture supplies. However, with good moisture, growth is expected to be rapid. Stock ponds are still low in some areas, mainly south central and northeast, because of light run-off. Hay stocks are mostly adequate, alfalfa and other fine hay in moderate supply but plentiful amounts of rough hay, and sorghums and sudan crosses. Marketings have been active in the east, moderate elsewhere. Prices continue good and cattlemen are optimistic. The fall calf crop has started to arrive.

TEXAS: Range feed condition showed a slight improvement during September. Rains in late August and September have greatly increased prospects for winter wheat pasture. Although the rains were late, grass should make more growth before frost. Stock tank water is adequate after the run-off from recent rains. The rains and humid weather, with the temperature in the 80's, have made climatic conditions in most of the State ideal for screwworms. During September there were 114 cases of screwworms confirmed in the State. A total of 232 cases have been confirmed in the State this year to date, substantially above the 92 cases last year. Most cases have been confined to south and west Texas, but isolated cases have been reported from central and northeast Texas.

MONTANA: Range feed improved during September but still below a year ago. September was cooler than normal after a very hot dry August. Rains helped to soften range grasses. Several range fires burned many acres of winter range but the damage was less than in August. Stockwater was generally adequate but many small stockponds remain dry. Range cattle are in good condition with fall marketing ahead of the past ten years. Range sheep are in good condition with fall marketing about normal.

IDAHO: Range feed conditions were generally good throughout the State. Fall ranges were also very good. Recent moisture improved conditions and germinated annual grasses at lower levels. Hay prices are higher than a year ago but supplies appear adequate for this winter.

Ranchers were moving livestock off the higher elevation ranges during September.

Cattle and sheep are in good condition with no unusual problems. Feeder prices are strong and sales are active as cattle come from summer ranges. About four-fifths of the lambs had been sold or contracted by the first of October, this is ahead of normal.

WYOMING: Range feed conditions declined seasonally during the month, however, moisture in the form of both rain and snow softened up existing forage. Cattle and sheep conditions are near average and very little supplemental feeding has been reported to date.

COLORADO: Range feed condition was fair to good on October 1, 1971. Precipitation was received on nearly all ranges throughout Colorado during the month of September. This relieved dry conditions for the time being, though winter range feed may be in short supply later on because of earlier dry conditions. The condition of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs improved during September as most were

moved off the depleted summer ranges. Marketings for both cattle and sheep increased during September and were at above normal rates. Stockwater supplies were generally adequate on October 1.

NEW MEXICO: Range feed conditions are down from September 1 due to deteriorating conditions in the Northern half of the State. Frosts, snow, and the very short growing season are largely responsible. An earlier than usual supplemental feeding season is expected. Plenty of stock water is available. Contract selling has accelerated to a level above the past two years.

ARIZONA: Range feed condition, at 80 percent, is the same as last month. Scattered rains fell this month throughout the State but drying winds and cooling temperatures during the latter part of the month hampered potential growth. Forage continues to be shorter than normal for this time of year. Stock water supplies are generally good. Cattle condition, at 82 percent, is up 2 points from last month. Calves are reportedly lighter than normal. The condition of sheep and lambs at 76 is up 1 point from September 1.

UTAH: Condition of range feed in Utah was generally fair the first of October. Freezing temperatures in mid-September and limited precipitation during most of the month slowed growth of range feed. Movement of cattle and sheep from high country ranges was underway, but was delayed by a late September snow storm. Prospects for winter range feed are rated good in the Northern area of the State and poor to fair in other districts.

NEVADA: Range feed conditions declined from last month but are in good condition. Below normal temperatures and little precipitation contributed to this decline. Winter ranges are generally good but moisture is needed to maintain and soften the feed. Livestock are in good condition with movement to winter ranges underway. After a slow start contracting for fall delivery is near normal. Stock water remains adequate. A few wool sales have been reported but continue to be nominal compared to total wool supplies.

WASHINGTON: Mild temperatures and light rains maintained good range feed condition during September. However, frost slowed new growth. Livestock are in good condition. Sales and contracts are reported to be up 7 percent from a year earlier for cattle and 17 percent for sheep.

OREGON: Oregon's range feed condition on October 1 was reported unchanged from September 1. September weather was dry, but general rains over the State the last week of the month softened the good supply of cured feed and gave relief to dry soil conditions. Rains in western portions of the State in late August and September resulted in good early growth of fall range feed. Livestock were in good condition on October 1. Fall movement was active. Fall sales and contracting for sale were at about normal levels.

CALIFORNIA: Range feed condition declined due to lack of precipitation. High temperatures during the second and third weeks of September dried range feed. However, stock water supplies continue to be adequate. Livestock continue in good condition but with increased supplemental feeding. Cattle movement from higher elevations has increased and calving has started in southern California. Ewes are being tagged in preparation for lambing season in the Sacramento Valley.