

western range and livestock



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July 1, 1971

17 Western States

Range feed condition improved during June in the 17 Western States, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Adequate rainfall in the Northern Great Plains States and development of summer ranges in the Mountain States provided good feed, while scattered showers in the Southern Plains States brought some relief to those areas.

Livestock continued in good condition. Range grass was the main source of feed with supplemental feeding limited to the Southwest.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Condition of range feed averaged 78 percent on July 1, up 2 points from last month but 6 points under a year ago. Range condition improved in most States during June but soil moisture was being depleted in western Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado. In Oklahoma, general rains in good amounts helped break the drought. In Texas, local showers brought only spotted relief while in New Mexico and Arizona, conditions continued to deteriorate.

CATTLE CONDITION: Cattle condition at 83 percent increased 2 percentage points during June but was 3 points below both a year earlier and average. Movement of cattle to summer ranges is virtually complete and cattle are doing well except for the southwestern States where supplemental feeding is heavy and water hauling is extensive.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Sheep and lamb condition at 83 percent was unchanged from a month ago but 3 points below last year. Shearing was nearing completion.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Goat condition at 77 percent was unchanged from a month ago but 7 points below both a year ago and average.

Conditions, July 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.	July:	June:	July:	av.	July:	June:	July:	av.	July:	June:	July:
	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:
	1969	:	:	:	1969	:	:	:	1969	:	:	:
N. Dak.	85	91	81	92	87	89	85	90	87	88	85	89
S. Dak. (West.)	85	90	91	92	87	89	88	90	88	89	89	91
Nebr. (West.)	86	88	88	89	88	89	87	88	:	:	:	:
Kans. (West.)	84	80	81	82	86	85	85	85	86	87	84	85
Okla.	84	77	69	77	86	84	78	82	:	:	:	:
Texas	81	82	63	68	84	86	75	77	82	85	76	77
Mont.	86	91	84	85	88	90	88	88	88	90	87	89
Idaho	86	92	88	91	88	90	88	90	88	88	89	91
Wyo.	86	89	87	92	88	89	87	89	88	89	89	90
Colo.	81	84	84	78	85	87	87	84	86	85	87	85
N. Mex.	76	75	60	57	80	79	69	68	81	80	69	69
Ariz.	73	69	61	60	78	77	69	68	79	79	71	68
Utah	82	83	82	83	85	87	84	85	85	87	85	85
Nev.	82	84	87	91	86	85	84	90	86	87	87	88
Wash.	85	86	85	89	87	89	87	91	88	89	89	89
Oreg.	84	86	85	90	87	88	85	90	87	86	84	89
Calif.	81	75	83	83	86	83	86	85	87	84	88	88
Western Range States	82	84	76	78	86	86	81	83	85	86	83	83

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Rains during June improved range feed conditions and topsoil conditions are now the best of recent years over most of the State. Cutting of wild hay will probably be delayed due to excess water in the sloughs. Livestock condition improved and no unusual death losses were reported. Flies and mosquitoes are starting to cause a few problems.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed condition increased 1 percentage point last month and on July 1 was 2 points above a year earlier. Summer grazing remains excellent as moisture supplies were adequate in all western areas until the latter part of the month. The hay crop is also very good. Livestock condition is above last month because of the continued excellent range feed condition. Some pinkeye is being reported in cattle and flies and mosquitoes are a problem.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Hot windy weather during the last week of June in the range area caused a need for additional moisture on some pastures, even though total precipitation continues above normal. Pasture condition is the best for July 1 since 1967. Cattle continue to look good and prospects point to an excellent hay crop.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Ranges continued to supply fair to good feed over most of the western two-thirds of Kansas. Range feed condition on July 1 was 82 percent of normal, 2 points below the 10-year average but 2 points above a year ago. Growth conditions were favorable in early June but hot temperatures and drying winds slowed the growth of grasses late in the month. In most areas except the southwest, range feed was supplying livestock good grazing and recent rains should help revive growth. Water supplies were generally adequate and cattle and sheep remained in good to excellent condition.

OKLAHOMA: General rains in early June restored life to ranges across the State and range feed condition was from a low fair in the west to very good in the northeast. Late June winds and high temperatures were sapping topsoil moisture at the time of the report, but scattered rains the last 2 days of June and first of July will help. Cattle condition improved sharply in western areas during June. Marketings during the month were orderly as feed supplies were adequate or better, and planting and harvest took precedence. A good second cutting of alfalfa was obtained but the outlook is still for short hay supplies. Lack of subsoil moisture makes summer grazing dependent on current rainfall amounts.

TEXAS: Texas range feed and livestock condition showed a slight increase during June. Scattered showers continue to provide spotty relief from drought over the State. Range feed condition increased slightly over last month but grazing is still very limited in most areas. Cattle and sheep condition increased slightly while goat condition showed no improvement over last month. Calving and lambing are nearing completion with a good crop of both calves and lambs reported. Cattle and calves continue to require supplemental feeding, forcing early and lightweight calf sales by many stockmen. Many areas of the State are short on stockwater and a good general rain is needed to increase grazing prospects for the remainder of the summer. The hay crop was short on the first cutting and many areas will need a rain before a second cutting can be made.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture supplies were above average in northwestern and southwestern areas, somewhat short elsewhere in the State during June. Temperatures were a little below normal. Range grasses are generally shorter than last year throughout most of the State and hay crop prospects are also below last year. Stockwater is adequate. Range cattle and sheep are in good condition.

IDAHO: Excellent range feed condition prevailed throughout the State on July 1. Above-average conditions were the result of abundant soil moisture supplies and warmer June temperatures. The outlook for this year's hay crop is good; however, some localities were later than normal with the first cutting because of rain.

Cattle were in good condition on the first of the month and better than average for this date. Most cattle have been moved to summer ranges. Some ranges at higher elevations opened later than normal because of the late snowpack and runoff.

Sheep were in excellent condition as a result of the forage conditions and the 1971 lamb crop is doing well.

WYOMING: Range feed condition advanced seasonally to 92 on July 1. The current condition is 5 points above a month earlier and 6 points above average. Excellent early growth and recent moisture has kept range feed condition very good. Livestock are in good to excellent condition.

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COLORADO: Range feed condition was fair to good on July 1, 1971. Below normal precipitation during June lowered conditions on many ranges. Higher mountain ranges opened during June but need moisture to maintain good condition. Cattle and calves and sheep and lambs were generally in good condition though some decline was noted during June. Lamb and calf crops were normal. Stockwater is declining but adequate at the present time.

NEW MEXICO: Dry conditions have not improved with the light scattered showers the past month. Ranchers continue to feed heavily and in many areas are hauling water to the livestock. Most earthen tanks are dry but wells are holding up. So far marketings have been orderly with reduction in herds probable if rains do not come by mid-July. Losses to predators are about normal.

ARIZONA: The condition of range feed at 60 is the lowest July 1 condition on record. Conditions declined by 1 point during June as no substantial amounts of precipitation fell at any reporting stations. Extensive supplemental feeding and hauling of stockwater continues. The July 1 cattle condition is the lowest since 1934 and sheep the lowest on record. Death losses due to predators and the eating of poison plants have been on the rise.

UTAH: Condition of range feed varied from unusually good in the northern part of the State to poor in southern counties. Northern counties have good moisture on summer ranges while some central areas are getting quite dry and southern counties are very dry. Cattle and sheep reflect range condition and are good to very good in the north and only fair in the south. There are no reports of contracting calves or lambs and the wool market continues slow.

NEVADA: Range feed condition varies from good to very good and is the highest in recent years. Fall range feed prospects are very good but fire hazards could create a problem if summer or fall rains fail to materialize. The condition of livestock is good to very good. Few contracts for fall delivery have been reported. Few wool sales have been reported with the current low demand. Stockwater is adequate and movement to summer ranges is complete.

WASHINGTON: Pasture and range feed conditions improved during June with cattle and sheep condition showing comparable gains. High elevation pastures show good prospects as soon as the snow melts. Current excellent moisture and growth point toward continued good range feed condition.

OREGON: Range feed conditions improved during June as continued precipitation and cool weather extended spring growth in drier areas of the State. Soil and irrigation water supplies continue above normal. First hay cuttings were short because of cool weather and alfalfa weevil infestation. Lots of cut hay was rained on. Livestock condition improved from good to very good. Sheep shearing is nearly completed. Most Willamette Valley lambs have been sold. Marketing is still in progress in other areas.

CALIFORNIA: Very little rain fell during June. Most of the rainfall came to the North Coast and Cascade-Sierra districts. Temperatures ranged from below normal during the first two weeks to above normal during the latter half of the month. Range feed is very good at higher elevations, but dry at lower elevations. Water supplies are adequate. Grass fat cows will begin moving to market from northern and mountain districts. Sheep shearing has been completed. Lambs are coming along in good condition.