

western range and livestock

17 Western States



September 1, 1971

Release:
September 14, 1971
3:00 P.M. EDT

Range feed conditions for the 17 Western States improved during August, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The 17-State average jumped 4 points during the month following a 2 point decline during July. Substantial improvement of range feed condition in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, and a slight increase in Nevada were primarily responsible for the increase. In most States ranges continued to provide adequate grazing.

Livestock condition responded to the improved range feed condition and the average condition of both cattle and sheep rose 3 points during the month.

RANGE FEED CONDITION

reported condition of range feed averaged 80 percent for the 17-State area on September 1. This is 1 point above the 10-year average and 5 points above 1970.

Range feed condition declined seasonally in many of the 17 States, but general rains over much of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma revived growth of weeds, annuals, and late summer grasses and filled earthen tanks. Range feed was reported poorest in North Dakota where lack of rainfall and high temperatures caused range feed condition to drop 15 points during August.

CATTLE CONDITION

Condition of cattle and calves averaged 85 percent on September 1 - up 3 points from August 1 and 2 points above a year earlier. The increase in cattle and calf condition was due mainly to significant increases in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, where cattle and calves were making rapid recovery. However, calf weights were considered lighter than normal. About 38 percent of the total cattle and calf fall marketings were sold or contracted by September 1, compared with about 30 percent a year earlier.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
MtAn 2-3 (9-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Condition of sheep and lambs on September 1 was 86 percent -- 2 points above average and 3 points above a month earlier. Sheep and lambs were reported in good condition in all States except Arizona where condition was still somewhat below normal. About 47 percent of total expected fall marketings of sheep and lambs were reported sold or contracted before September 1 this year. This compares with 42 percent in 1970.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION

The condition of goats in Texas at 86 percent increased 8 points over a month earlier. This is 6 points above a year ago and 5 points above the 10-year average.

Conditions, Sept. 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.:	: Sept.:	: Aug.:	: Sept.:	: av.:	: Sept.:	: Aug.:	: Sept.:	: av.:	: Sept.:	: Aug.:	: Sept.:
	: 1960-:	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:	: 1960-:	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:	: 1960-:	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:
	: 1969:	:	:	:	: 1969:	:	:	:	: 1969:	:	:	:
N. D.	: 78	75	86	71	: 86	85	89	85	: 85	85	88	84
S. D. (West.)	: 80	76	86	78	: 86	84	88	85	: 86	86	89	86
Nebr. (West.)	: 82	73	87	80	: 87	83	89	87	:	:	:	:
Kans. (West.)	: 78	66	79	76	: 84	79	84	83	: 84	81	82	84
Okla.	: 79	64	74	79	: 84	78	81	84	:	:	:	:
Texas	: 77	72	68	86	: 83	80	77	85	: 81	80	77	87
Mont.	: 80	81	79	74	: 87	92	86	85	: 86	86	87	85
Idaho	: 79	81	87	80	: 86	87	89	86	: 85	84	88	85
Wyo.	: 80	80	82	81	: 87	87	88	87	: 86	86	88	87
Colo.	: 82	83	80	79	: 87	87	86	85	: 87	89	89	85
N. Mex.	: 81	78	66	80	: 84	84	72	82	: 84	84	71	81
Ariz.	: 80	78	63	80	: 82	82	70	80	: 81	78	67	75
Utah	: 79	82	78	78	: 84	86	86	85	: 84	86	85	84
Nev.	: 78	78	85	86	: 84	84	85	86	: 85	85	86	89
Wash.	: 77	69	85	81	: 85	82	89	87	: 86	86	88	86
Oreg.	: 79	76	85	80	: 85	84	89	87	: 84	84	90	88
Calif.	: 77	74	79	77	: 83	82	83	83	: 85	84	87	86
Western	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Range States	: 79	75	76	80	: 84	83	82	85	: 84	84	83	86

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Condition of range feed averaged 71 percent, 7 points below normal for the date. Range and pasture feed deteriorated during August due to warm temperatures and lack of moisture. However, very little supplemental feeding was being done. Feed supplies are expected to be adequate for a normal winter. Condition of livestock remains good in spite of the poor pastures and hot weather. Flies and "pinkeye" are problems in some herds.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed condition declined 8 percentage points during August, but on September 1 was 2 points above a year earlier. Virtually no moisture was received during July and August and the grass has become very dry and brittle. Fire danger is extremely high. However, most areas received some rain the last day of August and the first week of September. Although the sudan was severely damaged by drought, feed supplies are adequate as an above average wild hay crop was harvested. Stock water supplies are fair. Some dams are very low while others still have an adequate supply of water. Although the condition of both cattle and sheep declined, they remain in generally good condition. Pinkeye in calves remains a problem. No unusual losses were reported. Fall marketings so far this year are about the same as a year ago.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Range feed condition, at 80 percent, was 7 points lower than last month but 7 points above a year ago. Pasture feed deteriorated rather sharply with the Sandhills showing the largest decline. The outlook for hay supplies remains good but below last month. Despite the decline from last month in the outlook for winter feeds, prospects remain much better than at this time last year. Cattle condition remained good despite a sharp decline in range feed prospects from last month.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed supplies on September 1 were generally fair to good but range grasses dried rapidly in August due to a lack of moisture. Winter feed on native ranges will be in short supply in many areas unless good rains are received soon. Livestock were in mostly good condition although a few cases of pinkeye have been reported. Stockwater was generally adequate but many ponds were low and a few ranchers were hauling water. The 20 percent of expected fall marketings of cattle and calves sold or contracted prior to September 1 was 1 point below last year but 1 point above average.

OKLAHOMA: Late July and early August rains, along with below normal temperatures, improved range feed across the State during August except in the Northeast. Northern areas have the poorest ranges and are in need of general rains for both grass and feed crops. The improved Southwest and West Central areas still needed more rain the first of the month but growth was fair and prospects for hay and feed grains were greatly improved. The southeastern fourth of the State was generally good to excellent, with cattle in high condition and prospects of late hay and feed crops very good. Deaths were low but flies were a problem. Marketing was active but orderly. Prices continue good.

TEXAS: Range feed and livestock conditions showed considerable improvement during August. General rainfall over most of the State the last of July and the first part of August increased prospects for fall grazing. Many stockmen have managed to get a second cutting of hay while efforts by others have been slowed by rain. Stockmen who have not already sold their calves are trying to hold them longer to take advantage of the increased grazing. Heel and horn flies have become bothersome over many areas of the State. There were 29 confirmed cases of screwworms in the State during August according to the Texas Animal Health Commission. This brings the total number of screwworm cases for the year to 113. This is 34 more cases than reported for the same time period last year.

MONTANA: August was hot and very dry. Range grasses were dry and brittle. Range fires were numerous. Dryland hay yields were well below last year. Irrigated hay yielded well. Feed grain yields were better than expected. Stockwater was generally adequate but there were many shortages. Range cattle have done well considering the hot dry summer. Calf weights are expected to be below last year. Contracting is a little ahead of recent years. Sheep have also done well and contracting is about the same as past years.

IDAHO: Range feed in Idaho is in good condition despite above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. Range feed in parts of the southcentral and southwestern sections of the State has been damaged by an above normal population of grasshoppers. This has caused some ranchers to sell or contract their calves a little ahead of normal. The condition of winter range feed is good. An excellent third crop of hay was being harvested under near ideal conditions and the supply for this winter appears ample in most localities. Hay prices are generally the same or higher than a year ago.

Cattle remained in very good condition with fall marketings sold or contracted before September 1 running ahead of normal.

Sheep are in very good condition as a result of the good range forage this year. About three-fourths of the fall marketings have been sold or contracted.

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WYOMING: Dry, hot weather continued from July into August and range feed conditions declined seasonally. Fire danger is high as the forage remaining on most summer ranges is dry and brittle. Winter ranges appear to be good.

COLORADO: Colorado range feed condition was fair to good on September 1, 1971. Precipitation received in August relieved dry ranges in the Arkansas Valley and in southwest Colorado. However, feed on some local ranges in eastern Colorado continued to show deterioration though remaining in fair condition. The condition of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs declined seasonally during August. Marketings for both cattle and sheep increased during August and were at above normal rates. Stock water supplies were adequate on September 1.

NEW MEXICO: Range feed condition has improved considerably with August rains, particularly in the eastern half of the State. Dry pockets still remain in the western half. Stock water problems have been alleviated. Livestock condition improved with more green feed available. Contract selling has picked up but still not as widespread as two years ago.

ARIZONA: Range feed condition, at 80 percent, is up considerably from last month as a result of seasonally heavy summer rains. The water level is adequate in most earthen stock tanks and soil moisture levels are also good. The growth of weeds, annuals and perennials is abundant, but because of previous drought conditions, range forage is shorter than normal. There is some concern that an early frost would not allow present soil conditions to be fully utilized in the production of winter-spring forage. Cattle condition, at 80 percent, is up 10 points from last month. While cattle are generally making a fast recovery, calves are reported lighter than normal. The condition of sheep and lambs, at 75 percent, is 8 points above last month but 6 points below the 10 year average.

UTAH: Condition of range feed in Utah was generally fair. All counties reported ranges dry to September 1, but recent rains throughout the State helped to improve fall feed prospects. Livestock are reported to be in good condition in all areas of the State. Contracting of calves and lambs for fall delivery to September 1 increased during August and is ahead of last year.

NEVADA: Range feed and livestock remain in good condition with a slight improvement reported over the previous month. The warm weather, insects, and coyotes have caused problems to some herds and flocks. The calf and lamb crops are developing nicely. Contracting for fall deliveries of livestock has been below recent years. Fire danger is extreme on all ranges with over 17,000 acres destroyed by two fires this month.

WASHINGTON: Range feed conditions dropped because of the heat and lack of moisture during the first part of August. The rains late in August and early in September should start regrowth. Cattle and sheep were doing well in spite of the heat. Sales and contracts were reported at a higher level than on September 1 last year.

OREGON: Oregon range feed condition declined during August because of prolonged warm weather. Range feed and hay lands were damaged by grasshoppers in northeastern sections. Some rainfall toward the end of the month improved the outlook. Water supplies were adequate except for Southeastern sections, where cattle were moving to higher meadows. Livestock were in good condition. Contracting of cattle and calves was above normal while sheep activity was close to normal.

CALIFORNIA: Range feed condition declined slightly from last month. The temperatures during August were generally above normal with little significant rainfall. Livestock remain in good condition. Supplemental feeding of hay is increasing in southern areas. Stock water supplies are mostly adequate. Mountain ranges continue to supply good feed. Little dry grass carryover is expected.