

# western range and livestock



November 1, 1971

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Range feed condition improved slightly during October in the 17 Western States, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Moisture from snow and rain continued to improve the range feed condition in most States in spite of cooler temperatures. Supplemental feeding has been minimal.

Condition of cattle and calves was the same as last month but was 2 points above a year earlier and the 10-year average. Sheep and lamb condition was up 1 point from the previous month and a year earlier and 2 points above the 10-year average.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Range feed conditions were generally improved in most States during October. The reported condition of 81 percent was 3 points above a year earlier and the 10-year average.

Snow fell in large areas of the Northern Great Plains and Inter-Mountain Regions but was beneficial as rapid melting increased soil moisture and stock water supplies. Texas with continued heavy rains reported the highest range feed condition for November 1 since 1958. California, Oregon and New Mexico have below normal range feed conditions because of earlier dry weather. Rains came too late in these States and low temperatures limited growth. Livestock have been moved off higher elevation ranges.

CATTLE CONDITION: Cattle and calf condition held steady during October at 86 percent in the 17 Western States. This was 2 points above last year and also 2 points above the 10-year average. Reported State conditions changed slightly from last month. The change was no more than 1 point in any State with 7 of the 17 States showing no change from the previous month. Many stockmen reported good weaning weights of calves. About 65 percent of the expected cattle and calf fall marketings were sold or contracted by November 1. This compares with 63 percent in 1970 and 65 percent in 1969 in the 17 State area.

**SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION:** Condition of sheep and lambs on November 1 was 86 percent, 1 point above last month and last November and 2 points above the 10-year average. Nevada was the only State that reported a lower condition than the previous month. Sheep have been moved from higher elevation ranges to foothill pastures or stubble fields. Lambing continues in Southern California and is beginning as far North as the Sacramento Valley. The percent of lambs marketed or contracted by November 1 was 77 percent, a gain of 15 points from October 1 but 1 point below the 78 percent in 1970 and 1969.

**TEXAS GOAT CONDITION:** Goat condition, at 87 percent, increased 1 point from last month. This is 3 points above a year ago and 4 points above the 10-year average.

**CONDITIONS, NOVEMBER 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.	:Nov.	:Oct.	:Nov.	: av.	:Nov.	:Oct.	:Nov.	: av.	:Nov.	:Oct.	:Nov.
	:1960-	:1970	:1971	:1971	:1960-	:1970	:1971	:1971	:1960-	:1970	:1971	:1971
	: 1969	:	:	:	: 1969	:	:	:	: 1969	:	:	:
N. D.	: 74	73	76	77	: 85	85	86	87	: 85	84	85	86
S. D. (West.)	: 78	76	84	83	: 85	85	87	88	: 86	85	87	87
Nebr. (West.)	: 81	75	83	83	: 87	84	88	87	:			
Kans. (West.)	: 76	73	74	75	: 83	81	83	83	: 83	81	83	83
Okla.	: 78	75	80	81	: 83	81	84	84	:			
Texas	: 79	82	87	89	: 83	84	87	88	: 83	85	86	87
Mont.	: 79	81	77	79	: 86	87	86	86	: 86	85	85	87
Idaho	: 78	79	79	80	: 85	87	87	86	: 85	87	85	87
Wyo.	: 79	81	79	82	: 86	87	87	88	: 86	86	87	88
Colo.	: 79	80	79	80	: 85	85	86	87	: 86	87	86	87
N. Mex.	: 80	78	79	78	: 84	84	83	83	: 84	83	83	84
Ariz.	: 77	79	80	80	: 82	82	82	83	: 81	80	76	78
Utah	: 78	80	76	77	: 84	86	85	85	: 85	85	85	85
Nev.	: 76	79	81	80	: 83	85	86	86	: 84	86	87	82
Wash.	: 78	78	81	80	: 85	84	87	86	: 86	85	88	89
Oreg.	: 79	78	80	78	: 84	84	86	86	: 85	87	87	87
Calif.	: 74	68	72	72	: 82	79	80	81	: 84	81	85	85
Western Range States	: 78	78	80	81	: 84	84	86	86	: 84	85	85	86

#### DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Condition of range feed averaged 77 percent, up 1 point from October 1 and 3 points above average. Widespread rains continued during October and moisture supplies are good going into winter. Little supplemental feeding was required until late in the month when snow covered ranges in some areas. Heavy rains caused some damage to hay in bales and stacks. Livestock remained in good condition in spite of the cool, wet weather. Feed supplies should be sufficient for a normal winter.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Range feed condition on November 1 declined 1 percentage point from last month, but was 7 points above a year ago. Light to moderate snow cover was reported in nearly all areas on November 1. Some grazing was available in most areas, but many ranches had started some supplemental feeding. Cattle and calf condition improved 1 percentage point, while sheep and lamb condition remained unchanged from a month earlier. Fall marketings of cattle and calves are above the 1970 level, and sheep and lamb marketings also were above last year.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Temperatures averaged below normal in October. Rain and snow fell on most range areas. A foot of snow was reported in the Northwest during the last week of the month. The precipitation improved grasses. However, the range feed condition was unchanged from last month. Both cattle and range feed were rated good and were well above a year ago.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed condition in the western two-thirds of Kansas on November 1 was 75 percent of normal, slightly below average for the date. Growth of range grasses has revived since the rains but growth of feed for winter use will be limited. Livestock have been making good use of harvested stalk and stubble fields and are obtaining some grazing from wheat. Livestock condition was good in most areas. Stock water is ample to meet most demands. Some 50 percent of the expected fall cattle marketings were sold or contracted by November 1, slightly less than average by this time of year.

OKLAHOMA: Range feed conditions across the State range from fair in the Panhandle, fair to good in the West Central and North Central Districts and good to excellent elsewhere. Good rains in October helped drought-stricken western ranges to recover and make good seed crops for future stands. Additional moisture is needed in the northwest for subsoil moisture and pond run-off. Early seeded wheat fields are now being grazed and with favorable weather wheat grazing should be the best in several years. Feed supplies for the winter should be ample to generous. Cattle are making good gains on fall growth and going into the winter in very good condition. Demand for calves to put on wheat is brisk and replacements are being made in drought-depleted herds of southwestern and west central Oklahoma.

TEXAS: Range feed condition improved slightly over the State during October. Continued rains during October improved fall and winter grazing prospects. Most stockmen also report an ample supply of hay. In the Panhandle and South Plains area prospects for winter wheat pasture are very good. During the month of October there were 141 screwworm cases confirmed in the State of Texas. Total screwworm cases for the year are 368, substantially above the number reported last year. Condition of all livestock increased slightly above last month. Condition of range feed and each species of livestock is the highest reported November 1 condition since 1958.

MONTANA: Rains in the southern and eastern portions of the State boosted range feed condition. Fall rains were spotty over the remainder of the State. Temperatures dipped to record lows and some snow fell later in October. Livestock condition has been good, with calf weights a little lighter than a year ago. Marketing of range cattle has been running above average. Sheep marketing is about normal.

IDAHO: Non-irrigated range feed now in use is in good condition. The normal movement of livestock from higher elevations to the lower fall and winter ranges was accelerated in some areas because of early snows. Feed supplies are believed to be ample although hay prices continue to be higher than a year ago. Cattle have come off the summer ranges in very good condition, a little better than average for this time of the year. Fall marketings are about normal and feeder cattle prices continue to be strong. Sheep were also in good condition as they came off summer ranges. Most of the lamb crop was sold or contracted by the first of November.

WYOMING: Range feed condition improved 3 points during the month and is also 3 points above average. Moisture during the month helped to improve the palatability of available forage. Livestock remain in good condition. No heavy losses have been reported to date.

COLORADO: Range feed condition was fair to good on November 1. Ranges benefited by open fall weather and moisture received during the latter half of October. Supplemental feeding was at a minimum during October. The condition of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs improved during October as movement continued off the depleted summer ranges. Marketings of cattle were above normal during October while marketings for sheep were about normal. Stockwater supplies were generally adequate on November 1.

NEW MEXICO: Condition of range feed is down from October 1. Shortage of moisture during the early months of the growing season is largely responsible. Grass in many areas did not respond well to rains which began in July. Supplemental feeding will be necessary where grass is short. Stock water is adequate and fall marketings are nearing completion.

ARIZONA: Range feed condition, at 80 percent, remained the same as last month. Additional moisture fell during October but below normal temperatures for this time of the year limited new feed growth. Forage continues to be shorter than normal for this time of the year. Stock water supplies are generally good as most earthen stock tanks are full. Cattle condition, at 83, is up 1 point from last month. The condition of sheep and lambs, at 78, is up 2 points from last month. Most livestock continue to recover from spring-summer droughty conditions.

UTAH: Range feed condition improved slightly during October. Recent snow storms have improved soil moisture conditions and stock water supplies for winter use. October was generally cold with temperatures averaging 2-10 degrees below normal. Movement of livestock from high country ranges to fall and winter ranges, farm fields, or feed yards is virtually complete.

NEVADA: Range feed condition was reported as generally good, although temperatures were sharply below average. Dry feed is adequate for winter grazing. Livestock remain in good condition and are coming off ranges at above average weights. Stock water supplies are adequate and livestock should winter in good condition barring any extreme weather conditions. Fall marketings are near average.

WASHINGTON: Temperatures were mild the first part of October with only light nighttime frosts. Below freezing temperatures occurred throughout the State during the last half of October. Precipitation was below normal all month. Because of these conditions grass growth was slow and range feed and cattle condition showed slight declines. Percent sold or contracted by November 1 was 6 percentage points below a year ago for cattle and 10 percentage points less for sheep.

OREGON: Range feed condition declined slightly during October, but was the same as a year earlier on November 1. Weather was mild and dry the first half of October, but cooled to below average temperatures the second half, with some precipitation. Ranges were dry in the northeastern portion of the State on November 1. Fall range growth is good in western portions except southern areas where cold temperatures slowed growth. Livestock were in good condition on November 1. Most are now on fall and winter pastures and stubble. Livestock marketing activities are about normal.

CALIFORNIA: Cooler weather came to the State during October. Extremely cool weather came during the last two weeks. Ranges are very dry due to a lack of rainfall over most of the State. Increased supplemental feeding is maintaining cattle in good condition. Cattle have been moved out of the higher elevation ranges. Fall calving and lambing is well underway in the southern districts. Some fall lambing has been reported in the Sacramento Valley.