

western range and livestock



December 1, 1971

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Range feed condition declined slightly during November in the 17 Western States, according to the Crop Reporting Board. With the onset of colder weather, range grasses showed only limited new growth and supplemental feeding was becoming more widespread. Crop residues provided feed in many States. Wheat pastures supplied good grazing during the month.

Livestock continued in good condition in virtually all of the 17 States. Condition of cattle and calves dropped 1 point from last month, but was above last year and the 1960-69 average.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Range feed condition declined 1 point during November, but was 5 points above last year and 2 points above the 10-year average. The most significant changes from last month were reported in Kansas -- up 4 points, and Texas -- down 4 points. Ranges in Kansas benefited from November precipitation. Although the range condition declined in Texas, it was still 11 points above December 1970 and 7 points above average. Snowfall was received in many of the 17 States, particularly in the Inter-Mountain region. Supplemental feeding increased during the month, but stubble field and uncovered ranges continued to provide the bulk of the feed. Feed and roughage supplies are generally adequate for a normal winter.

Fall seeded wheat is supplying good to excellent grazing in the Southern and Central Plains.

CATTLE CONDITION: Cattle and calves remained in good condition during November in all of the Western Range States except California where cattle condition was rated fair. The average condition for the 17 States, at 85 percent, was down 1 point from last month, but was 3 points greater than last year and 2 points above average.

As announced in the livestock program modifications in October, this will be the last issue of the monthly Western Range and Livestock Report. Beginning in April 1972, the Range Feed Condition will be combined with Pasture Condition and published in the Monthly Crop Production Report for the months of April through December.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
MtAn 2-3 (12-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

By December 1, about 79 percent of the expected fall sales and contracts had been completed. This is slightly ahead of last year's marketings on the same date.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Reported condition of sheep and lambs at 86 percent was unchanged from November 1 and 2 points above both last year and average. Fall lambing was getting underway in the early areas of Washington and Oregon. Lambing was also active in the Sacramento Valley of California and nearly completed in the Salt River Valley of Arizona.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Goat condition, at 86 percent, decreased 1 point during November. This is 6 points above a year ago, and 3 points above average.

CONDITIONS, DECEMBER 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. :	:Dec. :	:Nov. :	:Dec. :	: av. :	:Dec. :	:Nov. :	:Dec. :	: av. :	:Dec. :	:Nov. :	:Dec. :
	:1960- :	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :	:1960- :	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :	:1960- :	:1970 :	:1971 :	:1971 :
	:1969 :	:	:	:	:1969 :	:	:	:	:1969 :	:	:	:
N. D.	: 71	66	77	75	: 85	84	87	86	: 85	83	86	85
S. D. (West.)	: 77	77	83	82	: 85	85	88	86	: 85	85	87	86
Nebr. (West.)	: 81	76	83	84	: 86	84	87	87	:			
Kans. (West.)	: 76	71	75	79	: 83	80	83	84	: 83	81	83	85
Okla.	: 77	71	81	80	: 82	80	84	84	:			
Texas	: 78	74	89	85	: 82	81	88	87	: 83	81	87	87
Mont.	: 77	81	79	78	: 85	86	86	86	: 85	86	87	86
Idaho	: 78	79	80	78	: 86	85	86	86	: 86	86	87	86
Wyo.	: 78	83	82	81	: 85	86	88	86	: 85	86	88	87
Colo.	: 78	80	80	79	: 84	85	87	85	: 85	84	87	86
N. Mex.	: 78	76	78	80	: 82	83	83	83	: 82	83	84	84
Ariz.	: 77	76	80	77	: 81	81	83	82	: 81	77	78	77
Utah	: 77	77	77	75	: 83	85	85	84	: 84	85	85	84
Nev.	: 77	78	80	81	: 83	82	86	86	: 83	85	82	88
Wash.	: 77	75	80	79	: 85	83	86	86	: 86	84	89	89
Oreg.	: 80	76	78	78	: 84	84	86	84	: 85	83	87	86
Calif.	: 80	71	72	69	: 82	78	81	79	: 85	87	85	89
Western Range States	: 78	75	81	80	: 83	82	86	85	: 84	84	86	86

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Condition of range feed on December 1 averaged 75 percent, down two points from November 1 but four points above average for this date. Additional moisture fell during November and outlook for spring growth is very favorable. Ranges are providing limited feed and supplemental feeding is necessary. Livestock remain in good condition. Water and feed supplies should be adequate for a normal winter.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Range feed condition declined 1 percentage point during November but on December 1, was 5 points above a year earlier. Nearly all winter and fall ranges have light to moderate snow cover. Most ranchers have started supplemental feeding of livestock. Winter feed supplies are adequate to above in most areas. Condition of cattle and sheep declined seasonally, but were still above the reported condition a year ago. The bulk of the fall marketings are completed.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Range feed condition continued good during November, and as of December 1, averaged 8 points above a year ago. However, supplemental feeding was necessary in a few localities. Condition of cattle, at 87 percent, was unchanged from the previous month, but was 3 points above a year ago. Feed supplies are abundant. Marketings through November were slightly ahead of last year.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed condition in the western two-thirds of Kansas was 79 percent of normal on December 1, above average for the date. Ranges in most areas benefited from wet weather during November. Many ranchers indicated that winter range feed prospects were improved. Cattle condition was slightly above average and death losses were at a minimum for this time of year. In most areas stock water was adequate to meet demands. Some 67 percent of the expected fall cattle marketings were sold or contracted before December 1, slightly less than usual. Sheep condition was slightly above average.

OKLAHOMA: Range feed conditions are good across the State and in western areas lush wheat growth is providing excellent grazing. Western ranges are of good quality but have short top growth. Eastern ranges have abundant top growth but have lost some quality because of wet weather and below normal temperatures. Wheat pasture is excellent and so plentiful that most areas are understocked. Competition for stocker calves has been keen. Stock water is plentiful and soil moisture is in good supply. Heavy snow in northeast and west central Oklahoma on December 2 caused some supplemental feeding. Death losses have been slightly above normal.

TEXAS: Texas range feed and livestock conditions decreased during November. In the Panhandle and South Plains area winter wheat pasture conditions are reported good to excellent. Moisture during the fall was too late to help the grass in most areas but late rains contributed to the excellent wheat pasture condition. Stock water over the State is adequate or better. Condition of range, cattle, and sheep is the highest for December 1 since 1958. Goat condition is the highest for December 1 since 1961. During the month of November there were 45 screwworm cases confirmed in the State of Texas. This brings the total cases for the year to 413.

MONTANA: Ranges were generally open during November with precipitation below normal in most areas. Supplemental feeding of livestock increased during the month. Hay supplies are short in dry land areas. Livestock are going into winter in good condition. Marketings of cattle and sheep have been running about normal.

IDAHO: Ranges now in use are in fair condition for this time of year. Precipitation during November was equal or above average in most areas; however, temperatures were below normal. Livestock came off summer ranges in good condition. Supplemental feeding is prevalent on most operations and feed supplies appear adequate. There have been no unusual death losses.

WYOMING: Light snows occurred statewide throughout the month. Range feed, cattle and calves and sheep and lamb condition were all above average on December 1. Livestock losses to date have been about normal.

COLORADO: Range feed condition was fair on December 1, 1971. Ranges benefited from snow and rain received over most of the State during November. Heavier feeding of hay and cake began during November with hay supplies plentiful at this time. The condition of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs was good, but there was some seasonal declines during November. Marketings of cattle and sheep were at normal rates during November. Stock water supplies were generally adequate on December 1.

NEW MEXICO: Range feed condition improved slightly during November. Rain and snow was general over the State with above normal amounts in the east half. Some supplemental feeding has started. Stock water is adequate and fall marketings are nearly completed.

ARIZONA: Range feed condition at 77 percent declined 3 points during the past month. Winter temperatures stopped growth, on the higher elevation ranges. Current range forage consists of last year's dry grasses mixed with greening promoted by late fall precipitation. Forage, although short in places, should be generally adequate with normal amounts of supplemental feeding. Stock water supplies are generally good with tanks near capacity. Cattle condition at 82 is up 1 point from both last year and average. The condition of sheep and lambs at 77 is the same as last year but 4 points below average. Lambing is virtually complete in desert valley areas.

UTAH: Range feed condition declined slightly during November. Supplemental feeding has begun in all areas of the State. Stock water supplies are adequate and soil moisture is very good. Outlook for spring is optimistic.

NEVADA: Range feed condition improved during November but more moisture is needed to improve growth and maintain palatability of existing feed. Both stock water and soil moisture are adequate in most areas. Feed supplies are adequate and livestock should winter in good condition barring extreme weather. Fall deliveries are nearing completion for both cattle and sheep.

WASHINGTON: Low temperatures the first half of November slowed grass growth. Rain and snow caused oversaturation of some western pastures while improving eastern soil moisture supplies. Livestock maintained seasonally good condition and are in excellent shape to enter winter. The percent sold or contracted was 75 percent for cattle and 89 percent for sheep and lambs.

OREGON: Range feed condition on December 1 was unchanged from a month earlier. Ample precipitation was received over the State during November. High elevation ranges are snow covered. Lower ranges are about normal. Livestock are in good condition. Normal livestock feeding is beginning. Lambing is beginning in earliest areas. Livestock marketing activities continue about normal.

CALIFORNIA: Rainfall during November was received as far south as the San Joaquin Valley. Below normal temperatures slowed grass growth. Supplemental feeding maintained livestock in good condition. Calving and lambing were active in the Central Coast and Sacramento Valley districts. Cattle were being moved to available pastures in southern California. Sheep continued to graze on alfalfa and clover fields in the San Joaquin Valley.