

western range and livestock

17 Western States



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Range feed condition declined throughout most of the 17 Western States according to the Crop Reporting Board. Precipitation averaged below normal, but normal or below temperatures helped to sustain feed supplies. Except in the Southwest, range grass continued to be the main source of feed as a result of good growth earlier in the season. Livestock continued in good condition though down slightly from last month. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in the drier areas.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Range feed condition declined 2 points during July and was 76 percent on August 1, down 4 points from the 1960-69 average and 3 points below a year ago. In the Northern Plains and Mountain States more rain is needed for the development of late grasses and to keep present grass from dying. Feed conditions improved in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado where rains were received in varying amounts to bring much needed relief. More is needed however, to fill earthen tanks and soak the parched soil. Texas remains virtually the same as a month earlier. However, general rains have increased prospects for fall grazing but more is needed. Grasshopper infestations were causing damage in parts of Idaho and Oregon.

CATTLE CONDITION: Condition of cattle and calves was 82 on August 1--down 1 point from a month earlier and 2 points below a year ago. Condition is generally good throughout the range States except Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Cattle in these States are reported in fair condition, unchanged from last month in Texas, but improved in New Mexico and Arizona. Supplemental feeding and water hauling continued in the drier States.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Condition of sheep and lambs on August 1 was 83, unchanged from a month earlier but 2 points under a year ago and 1 point below average. Condition was the same or lower than last month in all States except Colorado, New Mexico and Oregon. No unusual losses were reported.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Condition of goats in Texas at 78 increased 1 point from last month. This is 4 points below last year and the 10-year average.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
MtAn 2-3 (8-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Conditions, August 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.	Aug.	July:	Aug.:	av.	Aug.:	July:	Aug.:	av.	Aug.:	July:	Aug.
	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:	1960-	1970:	1971:	1971:
	1969	:	:	:	1969	:	:	:	1969	:	:	:
N. Dak.	82	81	92	86	87	86	90	89	86	86	89	88
S. Dak. (West.)	83	82	92	86	87	85	90	88	87	88	91	89
Nebr. (West.)	83	80	89	87	87	86	88	89				
Kans. (West.)	80	69	82	79	84	81	85	84	84	81	85	82
Okla.	79	67	77	74	84	80	82	81				
Texas	78	76	68	68	83	83	77	77	81	82	77	77
Mont.	82	88	85	79	87	89	88	86	87	89	89	87
Idaho	82	89	91	87	87	90	90	89	86	89	91	88
Wyo.	83	88	92	82	88	89	89	88	87	88	90	88
Colo.	81	84	78	80	85	87	84	86	87	87	85	89
N. Mex.	78	80	57	66	82	83	68	72	83	81	69	71
Ariz.	75	75	60	63	79	78	68	70	79	78	68	67
Utah	80	83	83	78	84	86	85	86	85	87	85	85
Nev.	79	82	91	85	85	86	90	85	85	86	88	86
Wash.	80	78	89	85	86	86	91	89	87	84	89	88
Oreg.	80	82	90	85	86	88	90	89	86	86	89	90
Calif.	78	75	83	79	84	83	85	83	86	84	88	87
Western Range States	80	79	78	76	85	84	83	82	84	85	83	83

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Range feed conditions declined during July due to the spreading moisture shortage. The first cutting of hay has been completed and the second cutting is now underway in some areas, while other areas need rain to enable growth of a second crop. Much of the lowland hay will not be harvested due to standing water from heavy June rains. Condition of livestock remains good with no unusual losses reported. Pinkeye and foot rot are now a problem in a few cattle herds. Flies and mosquitoes are also proving bothersome to livestock.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed condition, at 36 percent, declined 6 percentage points during July, but was 4 points above a year earlier. Very little moisture was received in most areas during July, but unseasonably cool temperature helped preserve ranges. Range feed is generally still good because of early abundant growth. However, topsoil is getting dry and a good deal of the grass is curing as it stands. This leads to a high fire danger. Although several areas received hail damage, feed supplies are adequate. Stock water supplies remain generally good. The condition of livestock also declined in July, due primarily to the lower range feed conditions. Intended fall marketings are running slightly behind those of a year earlier for cattle, but about the same for sheep. Pinkeye remains a problem in calves. No unusual death losses were reported.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Drier weather during the month of July in the range area of Nebraska caused range feed conditions to decline somewhat. Despite this, pastures continue above normal and grazing is quite adequate. Cooler weather during the month along with continued good grazing caused an improvement in condition of cattle. The outlook for winter pasture and supply of hay is good.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Ranges continued to supply livestock with fair to good feed over most of the western two-thirds of Kansas. Range feed condition on August 1 was 79 percent of normal, 1 point below the ten-year average, but 10 points above a year ago. Above normal July precipitation kept grasses growing well in central districts but in some western counties range feed deteriorated significantly from lack of moisture and hot mid-July temperature. In some more severely affected areas supplemental feed was needed and there was some selling of cattle. Good general rains in late July in the southern half of the State should help to relieve the situation. Water supplies were generally adequate except for a few of the drier counties. The condition of cattle was down slightly from last month and condition of sheep was down moderately. The 11 percent of expected fall marketings of cattle sold or contracted by August 1 was slightly below average.

OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma range feed deteriorated during July because of dry, hot weather the first half of the month. Cooler weather and rains of variable amounts, beginning about the 20th, have relieved the situation, and in the eastern area range feed is good to excellent. The midwest and southwestern areas continue to be drought-stricken, and some supplemental feeding is necessary. Some water hauling is also necessary and new wells are being put down. Hay cuttings are below normal and shortages already exist in some areas. Marketings have been moderate because of earlier forced movement. Losses are light.

TEXAS: Texas range feed and livestock conditions remain virtually the same as last month. General rainfall over most of the State has increased prospects for fall grazing, but follow up moisture will be needed. Prospects have also greatly improved for a much needed second cutting of hay as the first cutting over most of the State was very short. Stockmen in many areas continue supplemental feeding of their remaining livestock. Many stockmen sold their calves early at light weights and some were forced to deplete their breeding stock. There were 30 confirmed cases of screwworms during July, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission. Two cases were reported in Bowie County in northeast Texas and the other reported cases were in south and west Texas. Total screwworm cases for the year are now 84, slightly above the same period last year.

MONTANA: Range feed supplies are adequate but lack of precipitation during July dried the grasses on most lower elevation ranges. Precipitation is needed to improve palatability and prevent grass from breaking off. Higher ranges are in better condition and are considered to have good feed supplies. Many ranchers report hay yields below 1 st year but will have ample hay supplies for winter. Stockwater supplies are low in spotted areas but generally good. Calf and lamb gains have been good this summer. Contracting for sale is underway and slightly more complete than last year.

IDAHO: Range feed conditions were generally good throughout the State and above average for the first of August. There was the normal seasonal decline from July 1, but overall, ranges were providing ample forage for livestock. Grasshopper infestation in some southwest areas was causing damage to range grass and hay crops. Generally throughout the State the hay crop looks good with the second cutting taking place under near ideal conditions. Cattle continued to be in very good condition. Fall marketings were about average for this date. Sheep and lambs were in better than average condition with a good lamb crop projected. Fall marketings sold or contracted by the first of August were slightly ahead of normal.

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WYOMING: Range feed condition dropped 10 points during July to average 82 on August 1. Seasonally, a decline in condition is expected for the month of July; however the 10 year average decline for July is only 3 points. Although scattered showers occurred throughout July, precipitation for the month was considerably below normal over the entire State. More rain is needed to bring up the late grasses and to keep the present grass from drying up. Fall range feed prospects appear good provided normal amounts of rainfall are received. There is a possibility of early livestock movement in some areas due to a lack of moisture.

COLORADO: Colorado range feed condition was fair to good on August 1. Widespread precipitation in late July relieved many ranges, especially in the east central, southeast, and San Luis Valley. Other areas also received moisture though more will be needed for good fall grazing. The condition of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs improved during July, and marketings were at a lower-than-normal rate for both cattle and sheep. Stockwater supplies were adequate on August 1.

NEW MEXICO: Range feed conditions throughout the State have improved as rains were received in varying amounts. Supplemental feeding and hauling of water continues, however. Earthen tanks are catching some runoff but conditions have been so dry that most moisture is soaking into the soil. Livestock are showing improvement as a result of improved range feed conditions. Hay demand is slowing but price is above normal.

ARIZONA: The condition of range feed at 63 is the lowest August 1 condition of record. Condition rose by 3 points during the month of July as summer rains have fallen on scattered areas of the State. Main areas receiving precipitation are the higher elevation ranges in the central, eastern and southeastern portions of the State. Supplemental feeding and water hauling are still required in many areas. Cattle condition at 70 is equal to the record low set in 1934. Sheep and lamb condition at 67 is the lowest on record.

UTAH: Condition of range feed varied from good in the northern part of the State to poor in the central and southern parts of the State. All counties report ranges drying and needing rain. Cattle and sheep are generally in good condition. Rains in the southern part of the State helped to improve livestock conditions in that area. Livestock are in good condition in northern and central areas of the State, but only fair in southern Utah. Less than one-fifth of the calves and lambs had been contracted by August 1.

NEVADA: Range feed conditions remain generally good throughout the State but are only fair to good in southern areas. Fire danger is becoming high as ranges dry out. Fall range prospects are good. Stock water is adequate but insects and coyotes have been a problem in local areas. Condition of livestock is good with a good calf and lamb crop reported.

WASHINGTON: Pasture and range feed conditions fell off slightly from last month with cattle and sheep making comparable but smaller declines. High elevation pastures are opening up and providing reasonably good grazing. Moisture is getting short in many areas but none is critical.

OREGON: Range feed conditions declined somewhat during July as hot dry weather cured lower elevation ranges. High elevation ranges are still green but beginning to cure. Hay crops were reported average or better. Grasshopper populations are above normal in northeast quarter of State with severe damage to hay crops and fall ranges in local areas. Water supplies are adequate to ample. Livestock are in good condition. Contracting of cattle and calves for fall delivery is about normal, but sheep and lambs are behind last year.

CALIFORNIA: Hot weather the last week broke the relative cool spring and early summer weather. Ranges dried rapidly during the month. Grazing stock are on irrigated pasture and high mountain ranges. Stock gains are reportedly above average on mountain grazing. Little dry grass carryover is expected this fall. Stock water supplies are generally ample. Livestock remain in good condition with light supplemental feeding reported in southern California. Sheep shearing has been completed but wool sales are slow.