

western range and livestock



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June 1, 1971

17 Western States

Range feed condition improved seasonally during May in the 17 Western States but was still 4 percentage points below the 1960-69 average, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Warmer weather and rain have improved range conditions in all areas except the southwest where drought conditions continue.

Livestock are in generally good condition and are being put on summer ranges in most areas. Need for supplemental feeding is greatly reduced in all areas except the southwest.

RANGE FEED CONDITION: Condition of range feed averaged 76 percent on June 1, up 3 points from last month but 6 points below a year ago.

Soil moisture remains short in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and western Oklahoma, but is fairly adequate in the other western States. While range condition in most States improved during May, condition in the southwest held unchanged or declined slightly. June 1 range condition was a record low in Texas and Arizona, equalled the record low in Oklahoma and was the lowest since 1925 in New Mexico.

Prospects are very good for early summer grazing, except in the southwest where rain is needed badly.

CATTLE CONDITION: Condition of cattle and calves increased 2 points during May, but at 81 percent is 4 points below last year and 3 points below average. Supplemental feeding is about over for this season except in the southwest where heavy feeding continues.

Movement of cattle to summer ranges is well underway and cattle are doing well except in drought areas. Spring calving is nearing completion and a good calf crop is indicated. No unusual death losses have been reported.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Condition of sheep and lambs at 83 percent showed an increase of 3 points during May but is 1 point below average. Lambing is about complete in all areas with a good lamb crop generally reported.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Goat condition at 77 percent increased 3 points from last month. This is 9 points below a year ago but 7 points below average.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD
MtAn 2-3 (6-71) WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Conditions, June 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.	June	May	June	av.	June	May	June	av.	June	May	June
	: 1960-	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:	: 1960-	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:	: 1960-	: 1970:	: 1971:	: 1971:
	: 1969 :	:	:	:	: 1969 :	:	:	:	: 1969 :	:	:	:
N. Dak.	: 82	83	75	81	: 84	83	83	85	: 85	84	83	85
S. Dak. (West.)	: 81	87	81	91	: 84	86	83	88	: 85	87	83	89
Nebr. (West.)	: 82	85	81	88	: 85	87	83	87	:			
Kans. (West.)	: 76	81	77	81	: 82	85	81	85	: 84	86	82	84
Okla.	: 82	79	68	69	: 84	84	77	78	:			
Texas	: 80	84	63	63	: 84	86	74	75	: 83	87	73	76
Mont.	: 82	86	77	84	: 86	87	85	88	: 86	87	85	87
Idaho	: 83	85	80	88	: 86	87	84	88	: 87	85	85	89
Wyo.	: 82	83	77	87	: 86	85	83	87	: 86	86	84	89
Colo.	: 77	81	82	84	: 82	85	85	87	: 84	84	84	87
N. Mex.	: 73	77	63	60	: 78	80	73	69	: 79	82	74	69
Ariz.	: 76	74	63	61	: 80	78	70	69	: 80	79	75	71
Utah	: 81	78	79	82	: 84	85	82	84	: 84	84	83	85
Nev.	: 80	80	84	87	: 83	82	83	84	: 83	81	80	87
Wash.	: 84	83	76	85	: 86	87	83	87	: 87	88	86	89
Oreg.	: 82	86	80	85	: 85	88	83	85	: 86	87	84	84
Calif.	: 82	75	80	83	: 86	83	82	86	: 87	86	88	88
Western Range States	: 80	82	73	76	: 84	85	79	81	: 84	86	80	83

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Range feed condition improved during May and recent rainfall gives ranges and pastures excellent growth potential. With warmer weather, pastures and ranges should furnish ample feed. Lambing and calving conditions were excellent over most of the State this spring. However, scours and red nose were problems in a few areas.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Western South Dakota range feed condition increased 10 percentage points last month and was 4 points above a year earlier on June 1. Late spring and early summer grazing prospects are excellent. All western areas of the State reported adequate to surplus topsoil moisture. Grass is lush and showing good growth. Condition of both cattle and sheep increased substantially, primarily due to improved range condition. A few death losses were reported, due to bloat caused by lush grass and clover. Lambing and calving are nearly finished.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Cool weather in the range area of Nebraska hindered the growth of grass even though moisture was plentiful. Despite the cool weather, grazing is better than normal and grasses are expected to develop rapidly with warmer temperatures. Cattle look good and most of them have been moved to summer range. Calving, vaccinating, and branding are finished on most ranches.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed in the western two-thirds of Kansas on June 1 was 81 percent of normal, 5 points better than the 10-year average for the date. Range feed showed improvement during May due to improved moisture supplies and the coming of warmer weather. Prospects for early summer grazing were generally good in most areas but the southern districts will need additional precipitation to maintain growth. Stock water supplies are generally adequate although some ponds are not quite full. Most cattle have been moved to ranges and relatively little supplemental feeding was required by June 1. This year cattle went onto ranges in a little better condition than usual. Sheep condition was near average for June 1.

OKLAHOMA: Range feed varies from nearly nonexistent in the western part of the State to lush in the southeast, with the State average condition for June 1 equaling the record low set in 1937. In the west, ranges are poor as rainfall until late May was too light to start spring growth. Small-grain grazing helped farmers and ranchers but that source of feed is now gone and very little temporary pasture has been planted. Culling of herds has been heavy and further sales and liquidation will be necessary if rains do not occur. There has been a good calf crop and gains have been quite good as the quality of the slow growing grass has been better than usual.

TEXAS: Scattered showers have provided temporary relief from drought condition in some areas of the State but a good general rain is still needed for any substantial improvement in range and pasture conditions. Range feed condition averaged 63 percent for the State, the same as last month and a record low for the date. Livestock condition was up slightly from May 1 but the lowest for June 1 since 1925. Calving and lambing are about complete with a good crop of both lambs and calves reported. Clipping and shearing of goats and sheep are nearing completion. During the month of May there were 16 new screwworm cases confirmed, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission. Total screwworm cases confirmed for the year are 37. All cases reported this year are in deep south and southwest areas of the State.

MONTANA: Topsoil moisture was adequate most of the month but shortages showed up briefly in many areas when warm, dry winds swept over the State in mid-May. During May, temperatures were a little below normal but grass still made good growth. Stockwater was adequate. Range cattle and sheep remained in good condition. By the end of May, 85 percent of the range cattle and sheep had been moved to summer ranges.

IDAHO: Range feed was in good condition on June 1. Range forage which has been generally good all spring, responded favorably to the warmer May temperatures. Soil moisture supplies are excellent and the prospect for this year's hay crop appear good at this time. Most cattle are in very good condition for this time of year. Calving operations were completed with no unusual problems or death losses. Ranchers were busy marking cattle and moving them to summer ranges. Sheep are in very good condition with a good lamb crop reported.

WYOMING: Range feed condition improved 10 points during May and was 5 points above average on June 1. Prospects for summer grazing are good to excellent, however snow pack in the higher mountains will delay summer pastures. Cattle and sheep are in good flesh as a result of the improved range feed condition.

COLORADO: Range feed condition was generally good on June 1 except in the San Luis Valley where cool temperatures and lack of moisture have retarded spring range feed development. Moisture received over most parts of the State during May improved range feed. However, additional moisture will be needed in the San Luis Valley and southeastern Colorado to ensure normal summer grazing. Calving, lambing and shearing were virtually completed during May. Stockwater supplies remained adequate throughout the State.

NEW MEXICO: Dry conditions continue to cause extreme hardship to the State's cattle and sheep industry. Range feed supplies are depleted and cannot improve without rain. Stock water continues to be a problem with many ranchers hauling water. Livestock are now showing the effects of the lack of green feed, the distance to water, and the drag of their offspring. There have been no unusual death losses reported.

ARIZONA: Condition of range feed was the lowest on record for June 1. Condition declined by 2 points during the month of May as only minimal precipitation was received. Temperatures throughout the State averaged below normal. Livestock are in poor to fair condition and heavy supplemental feeding and water hauling continues. Marketings and culling of herds have been heavier than normal, but death losses have been only slightly above average.

UTAH: Condition of range feed, cattle, and sheep all improved seasonally during May and averaged good for the State on June 1. Range feed varies greatly over the State--from very good in northern Utah to poor in the southeastern area where moisture supplies are short. Some feeding of hay continued through May in drouth areas and some stockwater was hauled. Prospects for summer grazing are very good on high ranges in central and northern Utah. Cattle and sheep are in good to very good condition in most areas but only fair to good in the dry south central and southeast sections. There has been very little contracting of calves or lambs for fall delivery.

NEVADA: Range feed condition continued to improve during May and is considered good to very good throughout the State. Growth and development of range feed was curtailed slightly during the month by cold, rainy, and windy weather but as warm weather arrives growth will become more abundant. Condition of cattle and calves improved slightly during May. Calving is 80 percent complete. Condition of sheep and lambs increased significantly during May with all animals in good to very good condition. Lambing is virtually complete with shearing over 90 percent complete.

WASHINGTON: Range feed condition rose sharply during May in response to warmer weather and abundant moisture. Cattle and sheep condition were also up sharply as a result of warmer weather and improved grazing. Summer grazing prospects are generally good. Calving and lambing are completed with generally good results.

OREGON: Range feed condition improved during May as temperatures approached normal for most of the month. Supplies of soil moisture and irrigation water were above normal in most areas on June 1. However, strong winds were depleting surface moisture in some central and eastern areas. Cattle and calves remain in good condition, improving as range feed improves. Sheep and lamb condition remains about the same as a month ago. Shearing progressed during May but is a little behind schedule due to wet weather. Heavier lambs are being marketed, but the bulk of the marketings are expected to be a little late.

CALIFORNIA: Range feed condition improved during May. Temperatures averaged below normal during the month. Strong winds during the latter part of May dried range feed at lower elevations. Mountain range feed is in very good condition. Stock water supplies are ample. Cattle are moving to higher elevations. Sheep shearing continues in the northern districts, but is virtually complete in the southern regions of the State. Lambs are moving to market.