



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



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Report to the Climate Issues Committee from USDA/NASS

USDA/NASS publishes a weekly Crop Progress summary each week from April through November and then monthly through the winter months. According to our latest report, which was issued May 16, 2011, moisture conditions across the State were quite a bit above normal which is a five year average, however they are slightly behind last year. There was a 12% surplus in topsoil moisture supplies. Planting progress was behind normal for the spring and summer crops due to cooler than normal conditions combined with the recent snow and rainfall. Seventy-Five percent of the pastures were rated as good to excellent, which is above this time last year and much better than normal which is 53 percent. We contract with AWIS, Inc. for the weather data each week. Fifteen of the 33 stations reporting were still behind in precipitation amounts for the year to date. Lance Creek was just slightly behind normal with 0.08 inches below normal compared to Jeffery City that was 1.75 inches below normal. Those stations that are quite wet are Lake Yellowstone at 5.59 inches above normal and Dubois at 4.09 inches above normal.

The complete report is listed below:

Week of May 8 – 15, 2011

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Cooler than normal spring temperatures continue across Wyoming.

Uinta County summed it best when they commented that the potential for an abundant crop remains in the hands of Mother Nature. Warmer temperatures have increased runoff in that county, as well as in Lincoln County. Lincoln County reported some flooding and will likely have some cropland under water. On the other hand, Albany and Converse counties reported continued cool conditions, delaying grass and runoff there. Carbon County reported a last spring snow resulting in additional calf losses while the dry winds have decreased topsoil moisture in the area. Platte County reported precipitation for the week with the hope that their crops will begin to really take off if the temperature increases. The NRCS SNOTEL site, as of May 9th, showed a snow water equivalent statewide average of 167 percent, well above the average of 89 percent this time last year. High temperatures ranged from the lower 50s to the upper 80s. Low temperatures ranged from the lower 20s to the upper 30s.

SOIL MOISTURE SUPPLIES

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Topsoil				
Very Short	0	0	0	3
Short	11	12	10	22
Adequate	77	77	83	72
Surplus	12	11	7	4
	This Week	As of 5/2	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Subsoil				
Very Short	2	2	1	12
Short	24	18	18	26
Adequate	69	75	79	61
Surplus	5	5	2	1

FIELD CROP REPORT: Days suitable for field work were 3.7. Topsoil moisture, rated adequate or better, was up slightly compared to last week and remains above the 5-year average. Conversely, subsoil moisture, rated adequate or better, was down 6 from the last report and 7 below this time last year. Weather and field conditions continue to delay planting and emergence of oats, spring wheat and row crops. Winter wheat conditions remained unchanged from last week. Crop insect infestation remains positive and unchanged from the last report on May 2nd with 83 percent reporting none, 15 percent reporting light infestations and 2 percent reporting moderate infestations.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Barley Planted	86	82	84	84
Barley Emerged	53	38	45	53
Oats Planted	65	61	72	69
Oats Emerged	27	20	31	38
Winter Wheat Jointed	63	56	46	49
Spring Wheat Planted	56	34	66	65
Spring Wheat Emerged	12	9	34	32
Sugarbeets Planted	59	48	90	92
Corn Planted	51	6	65	59

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel
Winter Wheat	0	1	33	64	2

CROP INSECT INFESTATION

	This Week	As of 5/2	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
None	83	83	N/A	N/A
Light	15	15	N/A	N/A
Moderate	2	2	N/A	N/A
Severe	0	0	N/A	N/A

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT: The end is in sight for those calving and lambing of farm flocks, while lambing of range flocks is now in full swing. Calf and lamb losses remain positive, with the majority of losses listed as normal however estimates of heavy losses are slightly above year ago levels. Cattle moved to summer pastures were estimated at 30 percent, while sheep were estimated at 27 percent. Range and pasture conditions remain above last year and well above the 5-year average, with good or better estimates accounting for 75 percent. Stock water supplies are also above the 5-year average.

CALF AND LAMB LOSSES

Calf Losses	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Light	36	37	24	N/A
Normal	59	59	73	N/A
Heavy	5	4	3	N/A

Lamb Losses

Light	29	29	18	21
Normal	69	70	81	77
Heavy	2	1	1	3

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Spring Calves Born	92	89	91	94
Farm Flock Ewes Lambed	95	92	93	94
Farm Flock Sheep Shorn	96	91	92	94
Range Flock Ewes Lambed	41	34	51	54
Range Flock Sheep Shorn	86	72	80	81

STOCK WATER SUPPLIES

	This Week	As of 5/2	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Very Short	0	0	1	1
Short	2	5	3	13
Adequate	87	91	93	83
Surplus	11	4	3	3

RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITIONS

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
Very Poor	0	0	0	1
Poor	6	6	11	11
Fair	19	22	22	35
Good	72	69	62	48
Excellent	3	3	5	5

WEATHER SUMMARY: Weekly air temperatures averaged below normal at 31 of the 33 reporting stations. This is the fourth week in a row that 30 or more of the reporting stations averaged below normal. Temperature averages ranged from 9 degrees below normal at Worland, Gillette and Midwest to normal at Lake Yellowstone and Thayne. The high temperature for the state was 88 degrees at Torrington, while a state low of 21 degrees was recorded at Lake Yellowstone. Newcastle received the most precipitation for the week with 3.30 inches, 2.74 inches above normal for the reference week, putting them 3.07 inches above normal for cumulative precipitation since January 1, 2011. Lake Yellowstone has received the most cumulative precipitation above normal since January 1, with 5.59 inches above normal. Jeffrey City is now the furthest behind for cumulative precipitation. Only four stations recorded below normal precipitation for the week and fifteen stations are currently below normal for cumulative precipitation since January 1, 2011.

Weather Data for the Week Ending May 15, 2011 ^{1/}

	Weekly Air Temperature				Weekly Precipitation			Since Jan 1 Precipitation	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total Inches	Normal Inches	DFN	Total Inches	DFN
District 1									
Cody	64	34	46	-7	1.27	0.43	0.84	5.12	1.85
Dubois	63	30	41	-4	3.16	0.41	2.75	7.03	4.09
Greybull	71	38	51	-5	0.70	0.31	0.39	2.97	0.50
Jeffrey City	67	29	42	-6	0.10	0.56	-0.46	2.43	-1.75
Lake Yellowstone	54	21	37	0	0.67	0.46	0.21	13.14	5.59
Lander	72	32	48	-5	0.61	0.56	0.05	4.09	-1.49
Powell	68	34	47	-7	0.64	0.32	0.32	2.63	0.90
Riverton	72	32	48	-5	0.42	0.42	0.00	1.80	-0.79
Worland	72	34	49	-9	1.29	0.36	0.93	2.69	0.17
District 2									
Big Horn	65	31	46	-6	1.56	0.56	1.00	7.67	2.43
Buffalo-Johnson	65	32	45	-7	0.98	0.56	0.42	3.99	-0.34
Gillette	73	29	44	-9	1.96	0.67	1.29	6.15	0.48
Midwest	77	30	45	-9	0.78	0.57	0.21	4.75	-0.27
Newcastle	75	31	47	-7	3.30	0.56	2.74	7.63	3.07
Sheridan	65	32	47	-5	0.78	0.61	0.17	5.22	0.68
Sundance	68	32	45	-7	1.28	0.62	0.66	7.25	1.34
District 3									
Big Piney	69	28	43	-2	0.36	0.22	0.14	1.59	-0.76
Evanston	67	31	44	-2	0.71	0.35	0.36	2.94	-1.12
Jackson Hole	66	27	43	-2	0.12	0.45	-0.33	7.75	-0.93
Thayne	71	31	46	0	1.06	0.52	0.54	8.21	1.34
District 4									
Casper	80	31	47	-5	0.95	0.56	0.39	4.22	-0.58
Laramie	73	26	42	-4	0.40	0.39	0.01	2.83	-0.65
Rawlins	75	28	46	-5	0.28	0.35	-0.07	2.68	-0.86
Rock Springs	73	32	47	-1	0.13	0.35	-0.22	2.16	-1.48
Shirley Basin	69	24	39	-4	1.04	0.35	0.69	5.26	2.35
District 5									
Buford	74	26	42	-3	1.18	0.49	0.69	6.18	1.20
Cheyenne	79	31	46	-5	0.73	0.56	0.17	4.11	-0.55
Chugwater	83	31	47	-4	2.18	0.70	1.48	6.70	1.52
Douglas	80	27	46	-6	1.09	0.62	0.47	3.88	-0.60
Lance Creek	82	30	48	-7	1.71	0.50	1.21	4.05	-0.08
Old Fort Laramie	85	32	48	-7	1.98	0.49	1.49	6.22	2.18
Torrington	88	33	51	-5	2.05	0.56	1.49	6.05	1.76
Wheatland	74	31	48	-7	1.30	0.56	0.74	5.67	1.89

^{1/} Summary based on NWS data. DFN=Departure from Normal. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Weather data prepared by AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955