



CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Released: 2:00 p.m., Monday
July 24, 2006

Week of July 17 – July 23, 2006

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Unrelenting heat with little moisture.

Small grains being harvested.

Range fires a concern.

Searing heat coupled with very little precipitation hit the State hard last week. All stations recorded above normal average temperatures. High temperatures were at least in the 90's with the majority of stations reaching over 100 degrees. Low temperatures were in the low 40's to low 60's. A few fortunate areas in the Southeast recorded rainfall but the remainder of the State remained bone dry. Accumulative precipitation for the year lagged further behind normal in nearly all areas.

Unrelenting heat continued to damage pasture and water supplies. Topsoil moisture was rated adequate in only 10 percent of the State, down from 15 percent last week and 35 percent last year. Subsoil moisture was rated adequate in only 9 percent of the State. Stock water supplies were 38 percent adequate, compared with 49 percent two weeks earlier. Drought declarations were being prepared in some counties.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	TOPSOIL				SUBSOIL			
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr Avg	This Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg	
	Percent							
Very Short	41	34	15	31	44	18	36	
Short	49	51	50	42	47	47	41	
Adeq	10	15	35	27	9	35	23	
Surp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

ITEM	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	Percent			
Barley Headed	94	84	90	90
Barley Turn Color	73	61	66	60
Barley Mature	34	20	32	28
Barley Harvested	20	3	4	5
Oats Headed	92	75	77	75
Oats Turn Color	57	35	47	35
Oats Mature	27	12	25	13
Oats Harvested	18	5	16	4
Spring Wheat Headed	100	82	94	87
Spring Wht Turn Color	82	42	66	43
Spring Wht Mature	36	5	19	17
Spring Wht Harvested	8	0	8	4
Winter Wht Mature	96	88	88	84
Winter Wht Harvested	79	63	67	54
Corn Tasseled	39	11	34	40
Corn Silk	9	-	5	7
Dry Beans Bloom	59	39	61	54
Dry Beans Set Pod	30	18	35	21
Alfalfa Second Cut	32	11	6	11
Other Hay Harv	54	40	53	49

FIELD CROP REPORT: An average of 6.8 days were suitable for fieldwork during the past week. Crop development continued to be pushed well ahead of average pace. Over three-quarters of the winter wheat crop was harvested, compared with two-thirds at this time last year and the 5-year average of just over half. Almost 40 percent of the spring wheat acreage was mature with harvest just getting started. About one-third of the spring wheat was in poor condition with the remaining rated fair to good. One-third of the barley crop was mature and 20 percent of the barley harvest was complete, well ahead of the average pace. Over one-quarter of the oats crop was mature with 18 percent harvested, also well ahead of the average pace. Barley and oats condition slipped again with only 59 and 51 percent in good condition at week's end.

Dry beans continued to develop ahead of average pace with almost one-third setting pods. Fifty-eight percent of the crop was in good or excellent condition. The corn crop was 39 percent tasseled and just starting to silk. Almost three-fourths of the corn crop was rated in good or excellent condition. Almost 80 percent of the sugarbeet crop remained in good or excellent condition. The second cutting of alfalfa was 32 percent complete, 21 points ahead of the average pace. Other hay harvest was at 54 percent, 5 points ahead of the 5-year average.

CROP CONDITION TABLE

ITEM	V POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCEL
	Percent				
Barley	1	6	34	59	0
Oats	0	8	41	51	0
Spring Wht	0	34	54	12	0
Corn	0	2	25	70	3
Dry Beans	0	2	40	56	2
Sugarbeets	0	3	18	75	4

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE, AND RANGE REPORT: The last week of soaring temperatures continued to damage rangeland and pastures. Only 12 percent was rated good, down 4 points from last week. Stock water supplies suffered as well. County-wide fire bans have been declared as numerous range fires continued to burn.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED

ITEM	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	Percent			
Very Poor	36	31	2	23
Poor	30	32	11	20
Fair	22	21	30	30
Good	12	16	51	25
Excellent	0	0	6	2

WEATHER SUMMARY: Temperatures during the week ending Friday, July 21st, were well above normal across the entire State. Averages ranged from 5.8 degrees above normal in Worland to 11.5 degrees above normal in Riverton. The high temperature was 108 in Newcastle while the low was 41 in Jackson. A few reporting stations, primarily in the Southeast, received precipitation but the majority of the State recorded no moisture at all. All stations reported amounts below normal with the exception of Chugwater. The most precipitation was reported in Chugwater with 0.86 inches, Laramie with 0.14 inches, and Saratoga with 0.11 inches.

Topsoil Moisture
July 23, 2006



