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RANGE & ROUGHAGE IN THE NORTHERN PLAINS
AND INTERMOUNTAIN STATES - July 1st, 1972¹

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The material I am presenting is based on the latest weekly crop and weather reports available from the United States Department of Commerce and U.S.D.A. and from individual state crop and livestock reporting services. Releases from the various state reporting services were for the week ending July 10th primarily.

Range and roughage production was reported as good to excellent in most of the northern states covered by this report, except for areas in Central Montana, South Eastern Oregon and South Central Idaho. The drought area of the southwest extended north and east into Nevada, Utah and southern Colorado. Feed conditions were such that livestock were being moved to market or other areas for the summer in this dry portion. Prospects for hay were poor and hay buyers were reported actively looking for additional supplies.

Prospects for an extensive sell-off of range livestock are developing in the Intermountain areas, but will depend upon July and August temperatures and moisture.

Colorado - Condition of ranges and pastures in the northeastern areas of the state was very good to excellent. Sufficient moisture had been recieved to promote adequate growth.

¹States including: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas.

In some areas of the southeast and on the western slope the lack of moisture has resulted in limited growth for grazing. As a result, some additional sales of range cattle have been noticed in these areas.

Alfalfa harvest was progressing at about the same rate as a year ago, with the first cutting virtually completed and some second cutting going on. Yield and quality was normal.

Condition of livestock is very good in most areas.

Idaho - Ranges and pastures in Northern areas were in very good to excellent condition from adequate moisture and temperatures. Haying was being done under almost ideal conditions. Yields were average or above.

Southwest Idaho was experiencing dry conditions, plus a major grasshopper problem in the rangelands. Spraying for control and to prevent movement into cropland areas was in progress. Dry ranges at lower elevation have been subject to numerous fires.

Eastern Idaho had received adequate moisture. Upper ranges were in very good to excellent condition.

Condition of livestock was reported as very good to excellent.

Kansas - much of the state had received significant rain fall during late June and early July. In southeast Kansas, where precipitation had been deficient during the spring, rainfall in beneficial amounts came from mid-June to early July.

Range and pasture feed responded favorably to the recent rainfall, especially in the southeast and south central areas. Portions of the northeast, extreme southwest and west central areas continue relatively dry.

Haying was delayed by rains and is behind normal. Second cutting alfalfa is 40% completed compared to 51% a year ago and 46% average for week ending July 3.

Livestock conditions were reported good to very good. Cattle marketing was slow due to harvest activities.

Montana - June rains brightened the range and pasture situation in the eastern portion of the state. Some far eastern counties had surplus grazing feed.

The Central and North Central areas and the extreme southwest pasture and range conditions were reported as poor to very poor. Some cattle were reported moving or marketed in Gallatine and Chouteau counties because of a shortage of grazing feed.

High summer pastures were reported very good and livestock continue to do well over all.

A short hay crop is expected in the drier central third of the state and average or above normal in the western and eastern portions.

Nebraska - Ranges and pastures were reported providing adequate grazing throughout the state. Rainfall has been spotty and variable but generally adequate except in the southeast.

Hay acreage is down 3% from a year ago, but yields were generally average or above.

Livestock conditions were generally reported as good to excellent. Some feedlots reported fly problems were extreme. Several days of high temperature and humidity had caused discomfort in livestock.

Nevada - Range and pasture feed conditions as of July 1, 1972, were reported as poor to fair in the northern portion and very poor in the south. Lower ranges are very dry and providing little feed. High summer ranges were reported in fair to good condition.

Livestock remain generally in good condition; continued drought could cause additional sell-off of cattle.

North Dakota - Range and forage production is good to excellent over much of the state except in the very northeast corner. Moisture has been adequate for all crops and growth has made good progress. Alfalfa yields are above average but rain has delayed the haying operations.

Livestock were reported in good to excellent condition generally throughout the state.

Oregon - Feed conditions over the western half of the state and the northeast were reported good to excellent and only poor to fair in the southeast.

Ranges in the southeast especially were drying fast, and spraying for grass hopper control was underway in the eastern portion of the state. Haying has been active with average yields.

Livestock were reported to be in good to excellent condition especially those on high ranges.

South Dakota - Pasture and range reported to be in good to excellent condition throughout the state. First cutting of hay was reported as good to excellent.

Reports of large numbers of grasshoppers hatching in the western areas of the state were included.

Livestock were in good to excellent condition but being bothered by flies and mosquitos.

Utah - Drought conditions were serious in much of the southern half. Soil moisture continues very short to short and feed supplies on ranges now in use were poor to fair throughout the state. Yield prospects were rated poor to fair as prolonged drought erased the good prospects existing May 1st.

Stock water was still adequate and livestock were maintaining themselves on summer ranges where feed supplies were rated poor to fair. Many grass fires had occurred and danger increases daily as lush growth from early rains in the northern foot hills cured out.

Deer flies and other insects were becoming aggravating.

Hay buyers from Utah are actively seeking supplies throughout the Inter-mountain Area.

Washington - Reported conditions of range and pastures were good to excellent. Drying conditions in Eastern areas were reported, but moisture continued adequate for hay and pasture growth. Some signs of moisture depletion on shallow soils were reported.

Rain showers had hampered haying operations prior to July 1st, but weather has been sunny and dry the past couple of weeks.

Livestock were in good to excellent conditions.

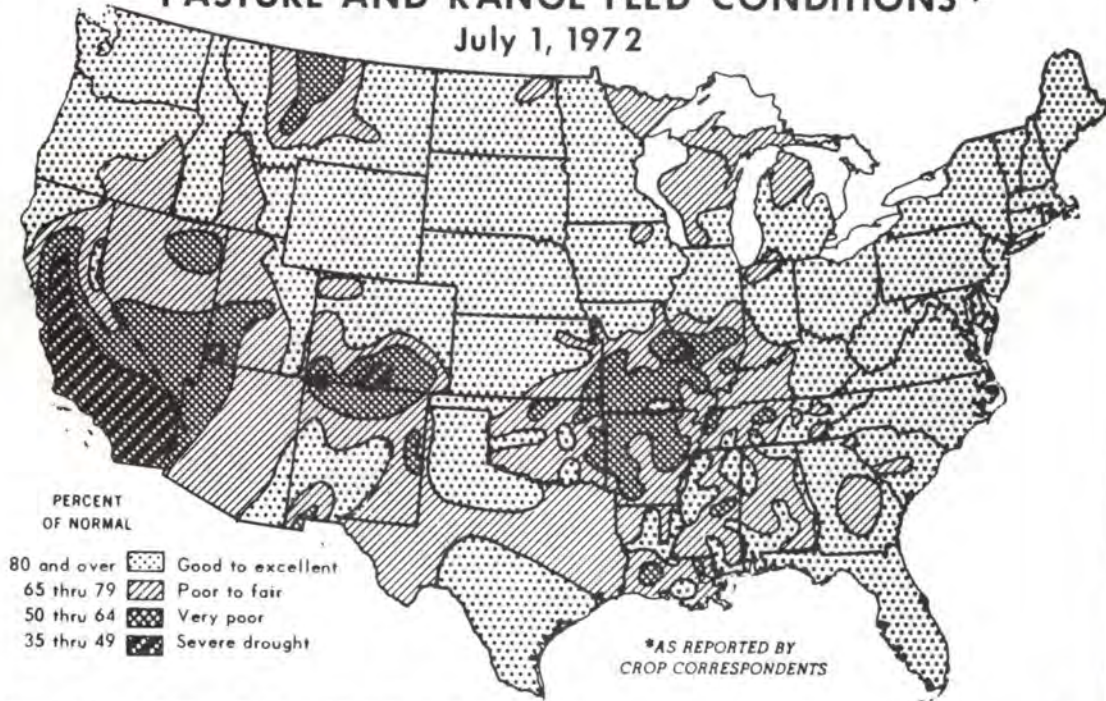
Some spraying for grasshopper control was in progress.

Wyoming - Range and pasture feed conditions were reported good throughout the state on July 1st. Surface and subsoil moistures were short to adequate in most parts. Prospects for late summer and early fall grazing were good.

Contracting for fall delivery of cattle was beginning.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*

July 1, 1972



*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. SRS 8832-72 (7)

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

July 1, 1971



PERCENT
OF NORMAL

- 80 and over Good to excellent
- 65 to 80 Poor to fair
- 50 to 65 Very poor
- 35 to 50 Severe drought
- Under 35 Extreme drought

*AS REPORTED BY
CROP CORRESPONDENTS

*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. SRS 237-71 (7)

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