Early grass prospects on April 1 varied with the moisture supply available throughout the Western Range area, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The outlook for good forage supply this spring and summer is largely dependent on future precipitation, although prospects are currently very favorable in some sections.

New grass growth was limited during March in the Great Plains and some Intermountain areas as cold temperatures and moisture shortages hindered normal early season grass development. Livestock were maintained in generally good condition with heavier supplemental feeding during the cold weather. Supplemental feed supplies are adequate for the remainder of the feeding season, except for scattered local shortages. Wheat pastures furnished some forage in the Southern Plains area early in the month, but by April 1 cattle and sheep had been removed from acreage intended for harvest.

**RANGE FEED CONDITION UNCHANGED:** The condition of range feed on April 1 was the same as a month earlier. On April 1, 1965, 12 of the 17 Western States showed range feed condition below a year ago, and below average.

Range feed conditions in most of the Plains area deteriorated during March. Temperatures averaged well below normal during the last half of the month, and precipitation was below normal in most sections. Additional moisture is needed to promote adequate forage supplies for spring and summer grazing.

Range feed conditions in Intermountain sections declined slightly during the month, but were generally rated better than in the Plains area. Snow cover on the higher elevations contributes to a favorable outlook for spring and summer grazing in much of the area.

Adequate moisture improved range feed conditions in the Southwest and in central and northern California.

Prospects for spring and summer grazing in the Northwest are favorable, although additional precipitation would be beneficial at the lower levels.

The April 1 condition of range feed was 73, the same as last month and last year, but 3 points below the 5-year average.
CATTLE CONDITION SAME AS MONTH EARLIER: Condition of cattle and calves in

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