Range feed condition declined seasonally during November in the 17 Western States but on December 1 was 2 points above average for the date, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Favorable weather condition and generally open ranges enabled livestock to make maximum utilization of existing range feed. This, combined with the grazing of corn and sorghum stubbles and other crop residues limited the amount of supplemental feed needed.

The condition of cattle and calves was 2 points above average for December 1, declining seasonally 1 point during the month. Sheep and lamb condition remained the same as a month earlier and is 2 points above average.

**Range Feed Condition:** Range feed condition declined 1 point during November but was 2 points above average. Rainfall in the Southwest, Pacific, and in the western section of the inter-mountain region promoted grass growth resulting in a marked improvement in range feed condition in these areas. Washington was an exception as cooler temperatures slowed growth and wet ranges prevented grazing. The greatest improvement was in California - up 10 points from the previous month. The greatest declines were recorded in North Dakota and Washington - down 5 points.

Open weather has resulted in near maximum use of ranges and crop residue from harvested fields. This has limited the need for supplemental feeding in many areas. Winter wheat is providing good grazing in Texas, Oklahoma and parts of western Kansas. Hay and other feed supplies are expected to be adequate.

The December 1 condition of range feed was 79, compared with 80 last month, 79 last year and the average of 77.

"Effective January 1, 1969, the Statistical Reporting Service plans to discontinue calculation and publication of 5-year averages that appear in this report. The report will contain data for the current and the two preceding years. It is believed that changes in agriculture have decreased the value of the five-year averages for making comparisons."
CATTLE CONDITION: Cattle and calves are in good condition throughout the 17 Western States with reported improvement during the month in Kansas, Nevada, and California. Cattle and calf condition held steady in South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Idaho, and Utah, but declined in the remaining Western States. Supplemental feeding is general in some areas but not on a full winter basis. With only a few exceptions, losses from disease and other causes have been limited.

Fall marketings continue to follow the seasonal pattern of recent years and on December 1, approximately 79 percent of the expected fall sales and contracts had been completed. This compares with 76 percent a year earlier.

The condition of cattle and calves on December 1, at 84, was down 1 point from last month but the same as a year earlier and 1 point above average.

SHEEP AND LAMB CONDITION: Condition of sheep and lambs was unchanged from the previous month and continued good in all the Western States except Arizona. Improved condition was reported in Utah, Nevada, and California with either unchanged or declining conditions reported in the remaining States. Lambing is well along in the lower valleys of the Southwest region and in western Oregon.

About 88 percent of the fall movement of sheep and lambs to market had been completed by December 1. This is the same percent that was marketed by this date for the 2 previous years.

The December 1 condition of sheep and lambs at 85 was unchanged from the previous month, and a year earlier, but 2 points above average.

TEXAS GOAT CONDITION: Goat condition, at 84, was unchanged from a month earlier. This is 1 point above a year earlier and 3 points above average.

CONDITIONS, DECEMBER 1, 1968, WITH COMPARISONS
EQUIVALENT OF REPORTED CONDITION: 49 or below is very bad; 50-59, bad; 60-69, poor; 70-79, fair; 80-89, good; 90-99, very good; 100 and over is excellent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Range Feed</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Range States:</td>
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WESTERN RANGE AND LIVESTOCK REPORT, December 11, 1968

DETAILS BY STATES

NORTH DAKOTA: Ranges have been free of snow cover and livestock have been grazing except for a few days in late November when snow fell. Supplemental feeding has been moderate but is gaining momentum as cold temperatures arrive. Roughage supplies are generally adequate except for a few localized areas. Livestock are in good condition. Fall marketings increased substantially during November and are now ahead of last year and about average.

SOUTH DAKOTA (WESTERN): Range feed condition is about normal for this time of year. Some rain and snow was received during November, but pastures and ranges in most of the West River area are still dry. Summer pastures were grazed heavily and are very short, but winter ranges have adequate grazing feed available. Many herds are being fed cake and hay as a supplement to grazing. Stock dams are getting low in many areas of the West. The condition of livestock remained about the same as a month ago with no unusual diseases or losses reported. No severe snowstorms have occurred so far this fall.

NEBRASKA (WESTERN): Range feed condition continued to hold up well despite limited amounts of moisture. Topsoil remained very dry over most of the State although snow showers helped to keep the range grass palatable. Open weather permitted extensive use of winter pastures and grazing of corn and milo fields. Some supplemental feeding is underway. Cattle are in good condition and most calves have been weaned with very few losses. Movement of cattle is ahead of last year.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Range feed condition in the western two-thirds of Kansas was 72 percent of normal, up 4 points from last year and 1 point above average. The range feed condition was generally good in eastern portions of the range area but spotted in western areas. Wild open weather favored continued utilization of sorghum stubble, corn stalks, sugar beet tops and other crop aftermath. Wheat was furnishing considerable pasture in most sections with the exception of some dry areas in extreme western counties. Cattle condition was slightly above average. Movement of cattle and calves was about normal during November and 68 percent of the expected fall marketings had been sold or contracted by December 1, slightly less than average. The condition of sheep was slightly above average.

OKLAHOMA: Range feed condition is holding up well. Ranges are providing an ample supply of cured grass. The quality of the grass had dropped faster than usual because of above normal rainfall. Wheat supplies for grazing are good in all but the western Panhandle, but the wet soils have caused farmers to hold cattle off the fields in many areas. Feed and hay supplies are plentiful. Stock ponds are at good levels. Cattle are going into winter in good flesh. Good demand for stockers to graze wheat fields. Cattle and calf marketing has slowed down, but generally was earlier than usual.

TEXAS: Range feed condition declined slightly from a month ago but still continued above both last year and the five-year average. Small grain pastures and fields are starting to provide grazing and prospects for increased utilization are very good. Light feeding of supplement is underway in scattered areas of central Texas. Cattle are still in very good condition and calving has started in most areas. Screwworm cases dropped sharply as cooler weather set in. Fall cattle and calf marketings are about 80 percent complete. Sheep, lambs and goats are also in good condition. The condition of sheep and goats was unchanged from last month and well above the five-year average. Fall marketings of sheep, lambs, and goats are now about 85 percent complete.

MONTANA: Range feed condition declined slightly during November although on December 1 condition was 3 points above average. Open weather and favorable temperatures during the month allowed livestock to make good use of range feed. Melting snow and rains made the grasses more palatable to livestock. Cattle and sheep are going into winter in good condition. Most livestock are now watering at wells and running creeks. Hay and feed grain supplies remain adequate with less than normal supplemental feeding so far this year.

IDAHO: Range feed condition remains good over most of the State although a slight seasonal decline occurred during November. Most ranges are still open and supplying some feed. Supplemental feeding has started in most areas, but is not up to a full ration yet. Feed supplies are adequate for normal winter requirements. Cattle and sheep are in good condition with favorable grazing and weather conditions. Marketings prior to December 1 are about last year.

WYOMING: Range feed condition declined slightly during November but remained slightly above average. Winter range, meadow, and crop residue were the main sources of feed. Concentrates were fed in a few localized areas. Cattle continued in good condition. Sheep and lamb condition remain good. Marketings of both cattle and sheep are nearing completion.

COLORADO: Ranges remained dry throughout the State during November with only light precipitation reported. South central, southeast, and the extreme northeast were reported very dry. Winter set in early in the high country, although snow has been light. Cattle and sheep are in good condition. Cattle were on full feed in many localized areas with much roughage and concentrates expected to be.
fed by spring. Water supplies are adequate except in the north central area. Marketings were running slightly ahead of the 5-year average for cattle and sheep.

NEW MEXICO: Range feed condition improved slightly during November as a result of good rains and snow. At lower elevation range grasses are abundant. Soil moisture is reported as fair and stock water as adequate. Cattle and sheep are in good condition. The marketing season is over. Sheep and lambs intended for slaughter market are moving into fields and feedlots for fattening.

ARIZONA: The condition of Arizona ranges improved slightly during November and are in fair to good condition. Rain and snow during the month helped to improve range grasses and soil moisture, but came too late to promote new growth. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in some of the colder areas. Stock water in dirt tanks is short in many areas and pumping and hauling of stock water has been required. The condition of cattle and calves remains generally good. The condition of sheep and lambs declined slightly during November with sheep in fair to good condition as of December 1.

UTAH: Range feed condition declined slightly from last month, but is slightly above average for this date. Ranges are dry but feed remains adequate as only the north central part received substantial precipitation during November. Feeding of hay has started where fields have been cleaned up or where snow cover is heavy. Both cattle and sheep are in good condition. Movement of sheep to winter ranges is about completed.

NEVADA: Nevada range condition improved during November as widespread winter storms improved palatability and gave strength to spring prospects. Stock water supplies are adequate. Hay supplies are generally adequate as feeding gets underway. Cattle and calves condition improved during the month. Sales are virtually complete on both cattle and sheep. No unusual death losses were reported for cattle or sheep. Livestock are expected to winter in good condition.

WASHINGTON: Range feed condition declined seasonally during November and on December 1 was reported at 77 percent. Growth of grass was limited by seasonally cooler weather. Wet weather has made much of the range west of the Cascades too wet to graze. Rain was beneficial to grassland at lower elevations east of the Cascades and stimulated volunteer growth in harvested small grain fields which is providing good feed. Livestock are being maintained in good condition as supplemental winter feeding is general.

OREGON: Rains and mild temperatures during November improved the range feed condition in Oregon. Range feed condition is up 3 points from the previous month. Cold weather east of the Cascades has forced the grazing season to end on some ranges. Hay supplies appear adequate. Cattle are in good condition with calf weaning weight: normal or above. Sheep were also reported in good condition and early lambing has started in western areas. Livestock marketings were generally on schedule.

CALIFORNIA: Rainfall was general throughout the month of November except light in parts of Southern California. Temperatures were near normal except for last week when temperatures were well below normal over Northern California. Grass made excellent growth and range conditions were greatly improved from a month earlier. All areas of the State were above normal in range condition except Southern California. Supplemental feeding continues but at a reduced volume. Livestock were in better than normal condition. Lambing is well along and extending farther north in the State.