Weather and Drought Report

**Current Conditions**
A comparison of drought intensity and extent June 1, 2021 compared to June 2, 2020 shows just how dramatically different conditions are today. As we move into the summer months, it is unlikely that we will see conditions improving as generally, precipitation totals remain low throughout the summer. From the June 1 Climate and Water Report for Utah, statewide precipitation was 42% of normal for May and 66% of normal for the water year. Unfortunately, this is not enough precipitation to bring us out of the deficit conditions we experienced since last summer.

As forecasted, water availability is near historic lows for 10 of the 18 basins included in the Report. Reservoir storage also continues to be concern with levels this year down 15% compared to last year and currently at 66% capacity.

**Future Conditions**
The 3-month drought outlook valid through August 31, 2021 shows drought persisting across the southwest. This combined with a monthly outlook showing increased probability of above average temperatures for the month of June and below average precipitation for the northern sections of the State further suggest that conditions are not expected to improve this summer.

In other news, the last La Nina forecast was issued in mid-May and we have returned to ENSO-neutral. ENSO-neutral has a 66% chance of continuing throughout summer 2021; however, there is a chance that La Nina conditions will again be present as we move into fall and winter 2021.
Commodity Prices
Commodity prices continuing strong through the month of May and into June. Corn, soybean, and wheat prices dropped during May but have since returned to beginning of May price levels. Weather conditions throughout the Midwest and West are impacting prices as well as strong demand factors.

Utah Hay & Cattle Prices
September Feeder Futures gained $10 since beginning of May with trading prices around $154. Drought considerations are still driving a lot of the cattle market uncertainty. Western range conditions are causing a lot of concern for producers with close to 60% being classified as poor to very poor. Lack of forage on public ranges could drive hay prices this summer. Hay prices are holding strong with premium alfalfa selling around $220/ton.