Weather and Drought Report

Current Conditions

Another month of dry conditions across the state contribute to no change in the U.S. Drought Monitor Report for this report. From the Utah Water Supply Outlook Report released March 1, statewide snow water equivalent is 77% of normal, up from 65% reported on February 1. Despite above normal precipitation statewide in February, the likelihood of reaching normal snowpack at peak in the next month is just about 10%. This suggests that we should prepare for spring and summer runoff well below normal across much of the state. Statewide, streamflow forecasts for April thru July are expected to be between 25-75% of normal.

Future Conditions

The seasonal drought outlook suggests that drought will persist across the southwest this spring. We continue to experience La Nina conditions although there is a 60% chance that ENSOneutral will return from April-June. Otherwise, the probability of below average precipitation should be expected through March.
This month's focus is on feed prices. The increase in corn prices has brought it to the forefront of many producers. Midwest corn producers are celebrating while cattle producers and feeders are worrying about increased feed costs. World corn ending stocks are the lowest they have been since 2016. China is the largest holder of corn and has now began to import more US corn thus increasing demand. From a price perspective, corn prices rose above the $5.30 mark in February. February also saw high DDG's price an

Utah Hay Prices
Drought conditions in the West don't provide any indication that 2021 will replenish hay stocks. This could compound the current drought conditions in Utah and surrounding states. Utah alfalfa prices have remained steady since a month ago with dairy/supreme quality hay at $205/ton, fair quality at $180/ton and 3 way at $170/ton.