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TX-CW0306

Texas Crop Weather

Released January 17, 2006 (3:00 PM CST)

For the week of January 9 - 15, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Conditions across the state remained unseasonably warm, windy and extremely dry in all areas. Dust and sand storms were common in many areas. Land preparation for spring crops was underway in many areas with fertilizer and yellow herbicides being applied in varied locations. Some producers were pre-watering their fields prior to application of these products. Extreme drought conditions remained in effect across the state, however some moisture in the form of light snow covered the ground in a few areas across the Plains and North Texas. Elsewhere, a few light showers occurred in some locations, but accumulations were light. Wild fires continued to cause severe losses, especially in range and pastures across many areas of the state. Fire crews from many surrounding states were stationed throughout many portions of the state to confront the danger of rapid moving range fires. Water available for livestock continued to be critical in many areas as stock ponds were drying up and forcing many producers to haul water to their remaining herds. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in all areas and many producers continued to reduce the size of their herds. Some other producers were liquidating their herds due to the continuing drought conditions and moisture prospects for the near future. Some producers continued to burn prickly pear cactus as another way to provide additional feed for their livestock herds.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation continued in a few areas, but was slow due to extremely dry soils across the state. Planting occurred in a few locations, but generally only where irrigation was available. Abandonment remained high especially in dry land fields and some producers were plowing up their grain crops and preparing to plant alternate crops later in the spring. Insect populations were active in a few areas but, producers were reluctant to spend money on control efforts at this time. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated at mostly very poor.

Cotton: Harvest was considered complete across the state. Land preparation, including fertilization and stalk destruction continued in many locations. Ginning operations continued and were only complete in a very few locations. All other areas reported that ginning will last another month or so. Damage to modules from high winds continued to be reported in a variety of locations.

Corn: Land preparation for next year's crop was underway. Some producers were applying fertilizer and herbicides for spring planting but, pre-watering was necessary before application in some areas. High winds and blowing dust caused some delays in a few locations.

Sorghum: Land preparation, including fertilization and herbicide applications continued in some areas. Minor delays were reported caused from blowing dust and sand.

Peanuts: Land preparation for next season's crop was underway, but slow as many producers remained reluctant to disturb the soil which could cause severe wind erosion.

Soybeans: Land preparation for next year's crop moved ahead, but was slow. Some producers indicated that pre watering was necessary before land preparation could begin.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, spinach, onions, and cabbage were making good progress. Irrigation was heavy in all locations, especially on vegetable crops. Harvest of spinach, tomatoes and cabbage was ongoing. Sugarcane harvest remained active during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage and spinach made good progress. Harvest of early cabbage and spinach continued. Irrigation remained necessary in all locations on cabbage, onions, spinach and carrots. Potato planting began in a few locations during the week.

Pecans: Harvest was generally completed across the state; however a few orchards remained partially un-harvested in a few isolated locations. Pecan prices were having some hard times according to reports.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions remained mostly very poor to poor across the majority of the state. High winds, warm temperatures and no rainfall have continued to remove soil moisture from pastures around the state. Supplemental feeding remained strong in most areas of the state with many producers having to purchase supplies from out of state sources. Herd reduction and liquidation continued to be common in the face of high feed prices, no winter forages and slim prospects for adequate rainfall in the near future. Range fires continued to be common in many areas and out of state fire crews have been stationed in areas where fire danger is especially high. Grazing of small grains continued to be minimal, even in some irrigated fields as moisture requirements have been difficult to maintain due to high wind speeds. Hauling water to livestock continued to be necessary for many producers as many stock ponds are now totally dry and others are approaching undesirable levels. Burning prickly pear cactus to aid in the supplement requirements to livestock continued in a few locations.

Crop Progress Table - January 15, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Winter Wheat.....	Emerged	92	95	96
Oats	Emerged	90	--	--
Pecans	Harvested	96	93	93

Top Soil Moisture by District – January 15, 2006*

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
- Percent of Acreage -															
Very Short	87	74	78	89	94	92	86	76	63	77	72	65	11	50	20
Short	11	23	21	11	6	8	14	22	34	19	28	32	51	40	70
Adequate	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	0	3	38	9	10
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-n,5-S.
 Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Crop Condition Table – January 15, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Wheat	0	2	15	31	52
Oats	0	1	6	23	70
Range & Pasture	0	1	10	29	60

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Jan 9- 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.87	59
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.78	41
North Central Texas	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.00	24
East Texas	0.19	0.19	0.19	45.69	28
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.96	103
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.01	60
South Central Texas	0.01	0.01	0.01	34.48	39
Upper Coast	0.13	0.13	0.13	47.63	58
South Texas	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.49	40
Lower Valley	0.05	0.05	0.05	25.34	74

^{1/} Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

