



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767
Voice: (800) 626-3142 * Fax: (800) 842-1331
nass-tx@nass.usda.gov * www.nass.usda.gov/tx

TX-CW0506

Texas Crop Weather

Released January 30, 2006 (3:00 PM CST)

For the week of January 23 - 29, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Conditions across the state during the week remained unseasonably warm, with some wind and little to no rain in many areas. In late week a fast moving Pacific front brought light to moderate rain showers to many central areas of the state and some areas of North East Texas. Accumulations were generally under an inch; however several locations reported totals in excess of two inches. The rain was welcome news to everyone in its path, however benefit to small grains and pastures was still yet to be determined. Land preparation for spring crops continued with fertilizer and yellow herbicides being applied in several areas. Pre-watering remained necessary in many areas, however weekend rains will alleviate this practice in a few locations. Wild fires continued to cause severe losses in many areas. Fire danger remained high due to the dry conditions. Water available for livestock continued to be critical in many areas as stock ponds continued to dry up. Even in areas where rain was received, run-off was minimal and stock ponds generally did not receive any benefit. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in all areas as pasture decline continued. Many producers continued to buy additional hay supplies from out of state sources and many other producers continued to reduce the size of their herds in response to the growing shortage of available hay supplies.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation remained active, however many producers continued to wait for adequate moisture before attempting any spring crop preparation. Abandonment of earlier planted fields continued in some areas as the crop was considered beyond the point of recovery. A few locations reported slight improvement in small grains from earlier rainfall, however much more was needed before adequate recovery could begin. A few reports were also received that indicated small grains in portions of South East Texas were progressing nicely. Some emergence of earlier planted grains was noticed in areas where rains fell, however much more rain will be needed to promote normal development. Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated mostly very poor.

Cotton: Land preparation, including fertilization and herbicide application was ongoing in a few locations, however dry soils were preventing some producers from moving ahead. Ginning continued with around the clock operations in many areas. Most areas report that ginning will last another month or so.

Corn: Land preparation for next year's crop was underway. Some producers continued to apply fertilizer and herbicides for spring planting, but pre-watering remained necessary before

application in some areas. Planting was just around the corner in many southern locations however moisture is needed before many producers can begin operations.

Sorghum: Land preparation, including fertilization and herbicide applications continued in some areas. Earlier rainfall in some central locations has helped producers in their preparation efforts.

Peanuts: Land preparation for next season's crop was underway in a few locations where earlier rainfall was received, but remained slow in many other areas due to dry soils.

Soybeans: Land preparation for next year's crop moved ahead in several areas however was slow due to dry soils in many locations.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, spinach, onions, and cabbage continued to make good progress. Irrigation remained heavy on all vegetable crops. Harvest of spinach, tomatoes and cabbage was ongoing.

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 was generally completed across the area.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions remained generally unimproved during the week. In areas that received earlier rainfall, some slight greening of winter forages was noticed, however more moisture is needed before full recovery can adequately begin. Supplemental feeding remained necessary in all areas of the state with many producers continuing to purchase additional hay supplies from out of state sources. Herd reduction remained necessary for some producers due to the lack of adequate hay supplies. Range fires continued to be common in many areas. Grazing of small grains continued to be minimal, even in some irrigated fields, as moisture requirements were excessively high. Water available for livestock was critical in many areas across the state, and many ponds are now dry and some normally year round tributaries are also mostly dry. Hauling water to livestock continued to be necessary for many producers. Some stock ponds received some improvement in portions of South East Texas as the result of rainfall late in the week.

Crop Progress Table - January 29, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Winter Wheat	Emerged	95	97	98
Oats	Emerged	93	--	--
Pecans	Harvested	99	98	98

Top Soil Moisture by District – January 29, 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	89	78	82	92	85	73	45	13	48	75	77	75	7	60	63
Short	10	21	17	8	14	20	50	60	45	21	19	24	37	39	33
Adequate	1	1	1	0	1	7	5	25	7	4	4	1	38	1	4
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	18	0	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 29, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Wheat	0	1	11	30	58	18	80
Oats	0	0	5	19	76	12	--
Range & Pasture	0	1	10	27	62	--	--

^{1/} The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where
 I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Jan 23- 29) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 29) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – 29) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.01	0.01	18.87	59
Low Rolling Plains	0.07	0.09	0.09	23.78	41
North Central Texas	0.94	1.56	1.56	34.00	24
East Texas	0.96	3.53	3.53	45.69	28
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.96	103
Edwards Plateau	0.51	0.56	0.56	24.01	60
South Central Texas	0.16	.074	0.74	34.48	39
Upper Coast	0.32	1.62	1.62	47.63	58
South Texas	0.02	0.07	0.07	23.49	40
Lower Valley	0.00	0.16	0.16	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/rfcs/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

