



# Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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**For the week of:** December 29, 2008 – January 4, 2009

**Agricultural Summary:** Southeast Texas received up to 0.5 inches of rain while the rest of the state received little to no rain. Wheat in the High Plains, Northern Low Plains, and Cross Timbers was in need of moisture and growing slowly. Cotton harvest in the High Plains was completed shortly before Christmas and yields were low. Cotton harvest continued in the Northern Low Plains with below average yields. Corn producers in the Blacklands, who had not fertilized for 2009 planting, were looking at alternative sources of fertilizer due to soil conditions being too dry for anhydrous ammonia. Sorghum harvest was complete and yields were low in the Northern High Plains and good in the Northern Low Plains. Pecans in the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau showed poor yields. Supplemental feeding of livestock took place across most of the state. Pasture and range land continued to be very dry and was in need of rain across most of the state. Top soil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

## Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Wheat in the High Plains, Northern Low Plains, and Cross Timbers was in need of moisture and growing slowly. The Blacklands and Edwards Plateau irrigated winter wheat have all emerged and showed limited growth. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly poor to fair and oat condition was mostly very poor to poor.

**Cotton:** Cotton harvest in the High Plains was completed shortly before Christmas and yields were low. Harvest continued in Northern Low Plains with below average yields. Land was being prepared for the 2009 season in Trans-Pecos. Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

**Corn:** Producers in the Blacklands, who had not fertilized for 2009 planting, were looking at alternative sources of fertilizer due to soil conditions being too dry for anhydrous ammonia.

**Sorghum:** Harvest was complete and yields were low in the Northern High Plains and good in the Northern Low Plains.

**Peanuts:** Harvest was complete in the Southern High Plains and South Texas.

## Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans in the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau showed poor yields. Cabbage harvest continued in South Texas and demand was strong.

## Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock took place across most of the state. Pasture and range land continued to be very dry and was in need of rain across most of the state. Range and Pasture condition was mostly poor to poor statewide.

**Crop Progress Table – January 4, 2009**

Crop	Stage	Percent		
		2008	2007	2003 – 2007 Average
Cotton	Harvested	95	96	90
Winter Wheat	Emerged	93	88	94
Oats	Emerged	82	86	87
Pecans	Harvested	58	89	67

**Crop Condition Table – January 4, 2009**

Crop	Percent					Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2007	2008
Cotton	8	28	33	19	12	59	--
Wheat	3	16	35	29	17	47	42
Oats	0	6	20	35	39	28	42
Range & Pasture	0	12	25	31	32	--	--

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.

**Top Soil Moisture by District – January 4, 2009\***

Condition	Percent of Acreage														
	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
Very Short	47	23	62	76	64	41	1	13	66	59	70	57	17	69	0
Short	31	66	33	22	27	42	20	32	26	37	28	42	55	30	45
Adequate	22	11	5	2	9	17	78	52	8	4	2	1	18	1	55
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	10	0	0

\* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week Accumulation (Dec 29 – Jan 4)	Previous Month Accumulation (Dec 1 – 31)	Previous Year Accumulation (Jan 1 – Dec 31)	Annual Normal 1961 – 1990	Previous Three Months Percent of Normal (Sep – Nov)
High Plains	0.00	0.06	17.61	18.87	130
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.00	18.61	23.78	78
North Central Texas	0.00	0.36	23.20	34.00	49
East Texas	0.02	1.78	37.75	45.69	80
Trans-Pecos	0.00	0.09	9.25	12.96	76
Edwards Plateau	0.01	0.06	15.07	24.01	39
South Central Texas	0.00	0.39	17.36	34.48	31
Upper Coast	0.12	1.06	34.66	47.63	65
South Texas	0.01	0.20	16.42	23.49	44
Lower Valley	0.04	0.37	27.19	25.34	106

**Cooperating Agencies:**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Texas Department of Agriculture  
National Weather Service

