



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW0706

### Texas Crop Weather

Released February 13, 2006 (3:00 PM CST)

For the week of February 6 - 12, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Much of Texas remained dry last week as producers looked for any type of relief from Mother Nature. Only a couple of regions reported precipitation. East Texas recorded the most moisture with rain gauge totals ranging from ½ inch to a few locations receiving up to 2 inches. Rainfall amounts of ¼ to ½ inch were realized along the Upper Coast and portions of the Rio Grande Valley. Central and North Central areas reported mostly light rain with the vast majority of locations recording well under ½ inch accumulations. All the rain that fell across the state was associated with a cold front that blew through in the latter half of the week. High temperatures ahead of the front ranged from the upper 60's on the Panhandle to the mid 90's in South Texas. After the front came through however, thermometer readings plummeted into the teens in northern regions and as low as the mid 20's on the Coastal Bend. Daytime heating brought most temperatures back to near normal levels. Soil moisture levels were improved somewhat in areas that received precipitation and even a few stock tank levels rose with runoff water. However, the entire state remained extremely dry as drought conditions persisted. Winter forage was in very short supply as many cattle producers were reducing herd size. Pre-planting irrigation continued as growers were forced to water their fields before plowing. Some producers were reluctant to begin watering due to the high cost of electricity and other fuels. Insect pressure was reported in some small grain fields although the freezing temperatures were expected to have a positive affect on population levels. Wildfires continued to be a persistent threat to all Texans. Lack of rain and humidity along with high winds and temperatures were all contributing factors and there was not yet an end in sight.

### Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Only a very few locations saw any improvement in wheat condition. In those areas, the light precipitation amounts only provided a slight green-up. In the vast majority of the state, graze-out and abandonment continued. Many growers have stopped irrigating their wheat fields in order to save water for summer crops. A good soaking rain will be needed within the next couple of weeks in order for any improvement to occur. Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated mostly very poor.

**Cotton:** More and more gins were finishing up the record 2005 crop, however there were still quite a few that were ginning. Fertilization and herbicide application was ongoing in a few locations; however dry soils in many areas made progress difficult for some producers. Pre-watering was occurring where irrigation was available but other growers continued to wait for rainfall before beginning land preparation.

**Corn:** Land preparation continued, especially in central and southern locations. Many producers in Central Texas were taking advantage of the moisture that was received and planned to seed as soon as possible. In southern areas where irrigation was not possible and soils remained dry, some growers decided against corn and were hoping for adequate conditions for planting cotton or sorghum. Planting across southern and central regions should be in full force in the next few weeks.

**Sorghum:** Land preparation, including fertilization and herbicide applications continued in some areas. The recent rainfall in central locations should be beneficial.

**Peanuts:** Land preparation continued but was hampered by dry conditions. Wind erosion in western regions was a problem.

### Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, citrus harvest was ongoing. Winter vegetable harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of early cabbage and spinach continued. Irrigation remained necessary in all locations on cabbage, onions, spinach and carrots.

### Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Only marginal improvement was reported in pastures in the eastern half of the state. Much more rain will be needed for a recovery from the drought. The majority of range and pastures across most areas were woefully short of moisture. Grass was dry and brittle as fire danger remained the primary concern. Very little small grain grazing remained available for cattle. Herds were highly supplemented and hay became more scarce and higher priced. Body conditions were rated as fair to poor as ranchers generally agreed that cattle were not in as good of shape as they should be for this time a year.

**Crop Progress Table - February 12, 2006**

| Crop         | Stage   | 2006 | 2005 | Average<br>2001-2005 |
|--------------|---------|------|------|----------------------|
| - Percent -  |         |      |      |                      |
| Winter Wheat | Emerged | 97   | 99   | 99                   |
| Oats         | Emerged | 97   | --   | --                   |

**Top Soil Moisture by District – February 12, 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             | 94  | 77  | 69  | 93  | 87 | 43 | 14  | 21  | 63 | 74 | 59  | 90  | 6  | 74   | 92   |
| Short                  | 6   | 22  | 30  | 7   | 12 | 45 | 57  | 28  | 36 | 25 | 33  | 10  | 44 | 24   | 8    |
| Adequate               | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1  | 12 | 28  | 51  | 1  | 1  | 6   | 0   | 39 | 2    | 0    |
| Surplus                | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 1   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0   | 11 | 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 – February 12, 2006**

| Crop            | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Index <sup>1/</sup> |      |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|
|                 | Percent   |      |      |      |           | 2006                | 2005 |
| Wheat           | 0         | 2    | 9    | 33   | 56        | 18                  | 77   |
| Oats            | 0         | 0    | 4    | 18   | 78        | 11                  | --   |
| Range & Pasture | 0         | 3    | 12   | 33   | 52        | --                  | --   |

<sup>1/</sup> 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 <sup>1/</sup>**

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous Week (Feb 6 - 12) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 12) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 12) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous Three Months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains                                 | 0.00                                    | 0.02                                    | 0.03                                       | 18.87                 | 7   |
| Low Rolling Plains                          | 0.00                                    | 0.04                                    | 0.13                                       | 23.78                 | 5   |
| North Central Texas                         | 0.20                                    | 0.32                                    | 1.88                                       | 34.00                 | 31  |
| East Texas                                  | 1.11                                    | 2.22                                    | 5.75                                       | 45.69                 | 48  |
| Trans Pecos                                 | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                       | 12.96                 | 8   |
| Edwards Plateau                             | 0.03                                    | 0.03                                    | 0.59                                       | 24.01                 | 23  |
| South Central Texas                         | 0.19                                    | 0.35                                    | 1.09                                       | 34.48                 | 31  |
| Upper Coast                                 | 0.52                                    | 0.68                                    | 2.30                                       | 47.63                 | 52  |
| South Texas                                 | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                    | 0.07                                       | 23.49                 | 14  |
| Lower Valley                                | 0.09                                    | 0.09                                    | 0.25                                       | 25.34                 | 46  |

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

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

