



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture
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For the week of: February 12 - 18, 2007

Agricultural Summary: Weather conditions were generally unstable and mostly dry across the state. At the beginning of the week, many producers experienced the warmer temperatures that they needed in order to dry fields. By midweek, weather conditions were less favorable as a cold front moved across most areas of the state. Several sections of the High Plains reported as much as 1.0 to 3.0 inches of snow. Many field activities were delayed across the state as a result of the cold front, with additional stress added on cattle. Only a handful of locations received traces of rainfall as the majority of the state was very dry. In South Texas, many producers began preparations for spring planting.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Extremely cold temperatures and high winds hindered small grain growth in the Cross Timbers. Producers in the Blacklands were able to get back into wheat and oat fields in order to apply top dressing fertilizers despite the high winds and cold temperatures. In South Texas, dry conditions slowed wheat and oat progression. Wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: Land preparation for planting was ongoing in the Trans-Pecos.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. Also, fruit producers were more optimistic about future harvest as they received a much needed increase in chilling hours. Dry weather in South Texas provided ideal conditions for cabbage and broccoli harvest. Producers in the Lower Valley continued to harvest sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state as producers attempted to maintain body condition in their livestock herds. Some areas of the Northern High Plains suffered from extremely muddy conditions, which contributed to bogging. Lice infestation was a problem in the Northern High Plains, Cross Timbers, and North East Texas. Hard rains are still

needed in both the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau in order to fill stock tanks. Low temperatures in the later half of the week caused additional problems for livestock producers in the Blacklands with limited grazing and short hay supplies. In North East Texas, prices continued to be strong for high quality cattle. Also, producers are hoping for increased growth in previously planted ryegrass. Many livestock producers in South Texas reported an increase in cool season forage production, but most still continued supplemental feeding. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Condition Table – February 18, 2007

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2007	2006
Wheat	14	28	36	16	6	67	--
Oats	6	30	37	15	12	60	--
Range & Pasture	4	14	35	28	19	--	--

^{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 – February 18, 2007 *

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	0	4	0	2	2	2	0	0	18	20	1	0	0	3	15
Short	11	29	0	35	23	14	4	6	25	42	13	0	2	30	20
Adequate	60	55	76	63	75	67	66	57	51	37	77	70	39	63	65
Surplus	29	12	24	0	0	17	30	37	6	1	9	30	59	4	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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/ 2/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Feb 12 - 18) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 18) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 18) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.06	0.15	0.79	18.87	134
Low Rolling Plains	0.02	0.15	1.02	23.78	66
North Central Texas	0.08	0.35	3.17	34.00	108
East Texas	0.76	0.94	7.31	45.69	120
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.07	0.93	12.96	97
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.15	2.05	24.01	86
South Central Texas	0.00	0.17	4.67	34.48	100
Upper Coast	0.59	0.78	6.80	47.63	99
South Texas	0.00	0.00	3.18	23.49	154
Lower Valley	0.00	0.51	2.25	25.34	117

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

^{2/} 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.

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

