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TX-CW3206

Texas Crop Weather

Released August 7, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of July 31- August 6, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Most areas from the Trans-Pecos and the western Edwards Plateau, northward through the Panhandle, received 0.25 to 1 inches of rain. Similar amounts fell in counties along the Rio Grande in South Texas. Some places in the Trans-Pecos and Northern High Plains recorded over 2 inches of precipitation, and heavy rains in the western Trans-Pecos caused localized flooding. Upper coastal regions got a break from July's heavy showers, as moisture amounts ranged from a trace to 0.5 inches. Some coastal areas from the Lower Valley through the Coastal Bend got 0.1 inches of rain. Most of the remainder of the state did not even record a trace of precipitation. Moisture from recent rains continued to delay harvest of corn and sorghum and cutting of hay in areas of the Upper Coast. The long-term hot and dry conditions in the High Plains forced some growers to abandon irrigated cotton and corn fields. Ranchers continued to sell cattle due to shrinking supplies of water, feed, and pasture.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: Insurance adjusters zeroed out acreage in the High Plains, where some counties reported that dryland acreage was almost completely gone. Many fields in the High Plains and Southern Low Plains were at cutout and doing a good job holding fruit. Insect pressures were light in the Plains. Growers harvested in the Coastal Bend, South Texas, and Lower Valley, and began to defoliate fields in the Upper Coast. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Corn: Yield reductions were expected in the Northern High Plains due to hot, dry conditions, and producers there continued to harvest for silage. Corn was cut for silage and baled for hay in the Blacklands. Harvest for grain neared completion in areas of the Blacklands and South Central Texas, and continued in the North East and Coastal Bend. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Dryland sorghum was almost nonexistent in some counties in the Northern High Plains and Southern Low Plains. Grain harvest neared completion in the Blacklands, where some producers combined what grain there was and baled the stalks for hay. South Central growers were also nearly finished with harvest, with some fields cut just for hay. Harvest was active in the Coastal Bend. Some sorghum started sprouting in the head due to recent

heavy rains in the Upper Coast. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: Growers continued to irrigate heavily in the Southern High Plains, where plants were pegging and blooming well with little sign of disease. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly good to fair.

Rice: Harvest continued in the Upper Coast. The condition of rice was mostly rated good to fair statewide.

Soybeans: Farmers continued to bale soybeans for hay in the Blacklands. Harvest was going strong in the North East, where there were also reports of baling for hay. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

The peach and berry harvest was almost complete in areas of North East Texas, where some producers reported a “dismal” sweet potato crop from lack of rain. Harvest of wine grapes was almost finished in the Trans-Pecos, where production was expected to be dramatically down from normal levels. Growers were winding down the cantaloup and onion harvest in the Trans-Pecos. Most of the watermelons had been harvested in South Central Texas areas.

Pecans: Expectations of a light crop were reported from the Cross Timbers, South Central Texas, and the Edwards Plateau. Pecans were “OK” in the Trans-Pecos, where early infestations of black margined aphids were under control. What nuts were left in the Trans-Pecos were filling out “nicely,” with good prices predicted.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

There were widespread reports of feed supplies and available pasture for livestock shrinking fast, along with stock tanks and creeks going dry. Some locations had little or no hay locally and were shopping for it outside the state. The bright spots were in areas of East Texas, coastal areas, and South Texas, where pastures and water supplies improved from recent rains and there was optimism for better hay yields. Ranchers continued to sell cattle due to dry conditions and not enough grazing; in some cases, herd sizes had been reduced by more than half.

Crop Progress Table – August 6, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Silked (Tasseled)	99	98	99
	Dough	92	83	83
	Dent	71	66	67
	Mature	62	59	56
	Harvested	45	31	28
Cotton	Squaring	94	95	95
	Setting Bolls	71	65	70
	Bolls Opening	15	15	15
	Harvested	2	4	4
Peanuts	Pegging	82	94	92
Rice	Headed	96	92	95
	Harvested	28	8	20
Sorghum	Headed	82	75	71
	Coloring	67	51	52
	Mature	60	47	46
	Harvested	54	42	39

Crop Condition Table – August 6, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	4	19	29	15	33	44	60
Cotton	4	15	27	28	26	42	71
Peanuts	9	27	46	11	7	65	80
Rice	1	33	57	9	0	67	76
Sorghum	1	20	25	23	31	41	69
Soybeans	1	13	28	22	36	37	55
Range & Pasture	2	5	19	29	45	--	--

^{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 – August 6, 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	50	61	74	85	76	89	59	19	38	73	41	20	0	47	54
Short	41	33	23	15	24	11	34	44	28	26	40	34	1	27	23
Adequate	9	5	3	0	0	0	7	35	27	1	18	45	56	26	23
Surplus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	1	1	43	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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Jul 31 – Aug 6) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Aug 6) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.50	1.30	6.21	18.87	47
Low Rolling Plains	0.27	0.67	8.12	23.78	58
North Central Texas	0.11	0.68	14.10	34.00	46
East Texas	0.31	3.21	22.01	45.69	67
Trans Pecos	1.33	1.04	3.88	12.96	40
Edwards Plateau	0.10	1.03	8.66	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.13	2.81	11.72	34.48	70
Upper Coast	0.75	11.08	29.98	47.63	159
South Texas	0.22	1.80	5.53	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.08	1.89	5.66	25.34	63

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

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcsahre/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

