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TX-CW3306

Texas Crop Weather

Released August 14, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of August 7 - 13, 2006

Agricultural Summary: At least 0.25 inches of rain fell in areas of the High Plains, Trans-Pecos, Upper Coast, South East, and Blacklands. Isolated locations in those places received 1 to 2 inches. Many counties throughout Texas recorded at least 0.1 inches of precipitation. Most of the state reported temperatures at or over 100 degrees during the week. Despite the rain, there were more reports of wells going dry in a number of areas. Growers in the Northern High Plains began to plant winter wheat in hopes of rain this month. Army worms were active in East Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Moisture from recent rains continued to delay harvest in some areas of the Upper Coast.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: Dryland plants in the Plains, stressed by hot and dry conditions, increased their shedding of blooms and bolls. Most of the dryland acres in the Plains had reached cutout. Growers in the Northern High Plains were debating whether to shut off irrigation soon, as the irrigated crop was at or near cutout. Farmers were defoliating in the Blacklands, and some began to harvest. Harvest was in full swing in the Coastal Bend, South Texas, and the Lower Valley. Wet conditions delayed harvest in the Upper Coast. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated poor to very poor.

Corn: The crop was quickly approaching maturity in the Northern High Plains, and farmers were planning to stop irrigating and let the crop dry down for harvest. Growers in that area also harvested for silage. Harvest for grain was winding down in the Blacklands. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Growers irrigated in the Northern High Plains, where the irrigated crop was heading out but many dryland fields never headed. Producers were finishing harvest in the Coastal Bend. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: Peanuts were doing well under constant irrigation in the Southern High Plains, where plants were filling pods. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly good to fair.

Rice: The condition of rice was mostly rated good to fair statewide.

Soybeans: The majority of the crop in areas of the Blacklands was baled for hay. Some acreage was destroyed in the Upper Coast by recent excessive rains that rotted the seed in the pods. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated poor to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Cantaloup and watermelon harvest neared completion in the Trans-Pecos. Growers harvested some remaining watermelons in South Central Texas, but size and quality were down. Pumpkins looked very good in the Northern High Plains, especially the later planted crop.

Pecans: Good nut filling was reported in the Trans-Pecos, where some yellow aphids were present but under control. There was little or no damage by casebearer, and not many webworms, in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Some cattle were bought for grazing winter wheat being planted in the Northern High Plains. In most areas, range conditions continued to decline, and hay was scarce and expensive. Exceptions were in locations that received rain recently, including East Texas, the Trans-Pecos, and coastal areas. Ranchers in drought-stressed areas provided supplemental feeding, and Cross Timbers producers were reported to be buying rolls of corn and milo instead of expensive bales of Bermuda. Producers continued to liquidate herds due to dry conditions and not enough grazing.

Crop Progress Table – August 13, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Dough	97	90	90
	Dented	85	69	74
	Mature	63	61	60
	Harvested	56	37	39
Cotton	Squaring	95	97	97
	Setting Bolls	82	76	80
	Bolls Opening	17	16	18
	Harvested	5	7	8
Peanuts	Pegging	85	97	96
Rice	Headed	97	96	98
	Harvested	56	30	41
Sorghum	Headed	84	79	77
	Turning Color	68	53	55
	Mature	64	49	49
	Harvested	60	46	44

Crop Condition Table – August 13, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	17	28	18	34	42	60
Cotton	5	17	24	27	27	43	72
Peanuts	12	36	43	5	4	73	86
Rice	5	40	44	11	0	71	85
Sorghum	1	20	24	21	34	40	68
Soybeans	1	9	22	25	43	31	53
Range & Pasture	1	6	15	29	49	--	--

^{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 13, 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	67	60	82	84	87	86	60	15	36	76	60	23	0	48	40
Short	26	34	16	16	13	13	31	44	29	23	31	55	10	29	20
Adequate	7	5	2	0	0	1	9	41	32	1	9	22	45	23	40
Surplus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	45	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 (Aug 7 - 13) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Aug 1 - 13) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Aug 13) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (May - July) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.44	0.94	6.65	18.87	47
Low Rolling Plains	0.14	0.41	8.26	23.78	58
North Central Texas	0.24	0.35	14.34	34.00	46
East Texas	0.14	0.45	22.15	45.69	67
Trans Pecos	0.26	1.33	4.14	12.96	40
Edwards Plateau	0.09	0.19	8.75	24.01	55
South Central Texas	0.10	0.23	11.82	34.48	70
Upper Coast	0.50	1.15	30.48	47.63	159
South Texas	0.03	0.25	5.56	23.49	57
Lower Valley	0.36	0.44	6.02	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/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

