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TX-CW4006

Texas Crop Weather

Released October 2, 2006

For the week of September 25 – October 1, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Most of the rainfall in Texas was in South Texas and coastal areas, where up to an inch was recorded. Spotty showers near the Oklahoma border in the Northern Low Plains and Cross Timbers contributed up to 0.25 inches of rainfall. Otherwise, except for widely scattered traces of rain, the state was dry. Pasture conditions improved in South and South Central Texas, the Edwards Plateau, and the Lower Valley because of rainfall received prior to this week. Hay crops were being laid down and baled at a rapid pace in the High Plains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Producers continued to plant wheat in the Plains, and fields that were already planted were coming up well. More moisture was needed to complete planting and ensure stand establishment. Producers planted small grains in the Cross Timbers, where emerged fields were stressed by dry conditions. Planting of small grains continued in the Blacklands, Edwards Plateau, and South and South Central areas.

Cotton: Cotton matured quickly in the Northern High Plains, where cotton bolls continued to open. Producers throughout the Plains applied harvest aids to fields. Harvest was expected to begin in about three weeks in the Northern High Plains and in about a week in the Northern Low Plains. Harvest was just beginning in the Southern Plains. Gins were expected to run for another three or four weeks in the Blacklands, where harvest was nearly complete. Bolls were mostly open in the Trans-Pecos. Wet soils continued to delay the completion of harvest in coastal areas. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly fair to poor.

Corn: Harvest progressed as fast as the combines would allow in the Northern High Plains. The corn condition statewide was mostly fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Grain sorghum continued to progress to maturity in the Northern High Plains. Statewide, sorghum condition was mainly fair to very poor.

Peanuts: Harvest continued at a slow pace in the Southern High Plains, but it was expected to pick up soon. Harvest was expected to begin the Northern Low Plains and South Texas in about a week. Peanut condition statewide was mostly good to fair.

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

Soybeans: Statewide, the condition was mostly fair to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pumpkin harvest was in full swing in the Northern High Plains, where a smaller crop was expected. Producers harvested watermelons in the Southern High Plains. Producers continued to plant green beans in South Texas and prepared land for planting onions, cabbage, and carrots.

Pecans: Producers harvested pecans in the Cross Timbers. The crop was expected to be very short due to lack of rain. Nut filling was nearly complete in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures were in good condition in the Plains. Haying was in full swing in the Northern High Plains, where hay supplies were expected to be excellent because of August rains. Ranches in the Northern Low Plains were getting ready for annual horse sales. Extreme dry conditions and wind set back growth of pastures in the Cross Timbers and forced some producers to cut Bermuda hay and supplement cattle. Cattle sales decreased somewhat in the Blacklands because of improved grazing conditions. Ranchers in North East Texas continued to search for hay for current and winter feeding, and some were feeding full time because of poor pasture conditions. Producers in East Texas reduced herds and planted winter pastures, including clovers and ryegrass, where there was enough soil moisture. Producers in the South East were getting in their last cutting of hay for the year. Pastures improved in the Edwards Plateau, South and South Central Texas, and the Lower Valley in response to recent rains. Some fall shearing was underway in the Edwards Plateau. Grazing conditions continued to be excellent in the Upper Coast, where frequent rains have made haying difficult in some areas.

Crop Progress Table – October 1, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Mature	99	93	97
	Harvested	73	80	79
Cotton	Bolls Opening	73	60	67
	Harvested	23	24	23
Peanuts	Harvested	5	7	10
Rice	Harvested	99	99	99
Sorghum	Turning Color	87	89	89
	Mature	74	69	75
	Harvested	70	61	65
Soybeans	Harvested	88	63	73
Sunflowers	Harvested	63	47	60
Winter Wheat	Planted	57	49	57
	Emerged	27	19	28
Oats	Planted	38	33	45
	Emerged	10	5	--

Crop Condition Table – October 1, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	17	28	18	34	42	62
Cotton	5	21	31	25	18	50	72
Peanuts	11	30	47	9	3	70	86
Rice	5	40	44	11	0	71	83
Sorghum	1	20	24	21	34	40	70
Soybeans	1	15	22	22	40	35	53
Range & Pasture	1	9	23	33	34	--	--

^{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 – October 1, 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	16	11	17	30	17	49	58	34	23	33	34	0	0	2	30
Short	36	28	53	43	58	42	35	52	28	49	41	3	11	13	15
Adequate	42	53	30	27	25	9	7	14	47	18	25	45	79	82	55
Surplus	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	52	10	3	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 (Sep 25 – Oct 1) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Oct 1) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jun - Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	2.49	12.41	18.87	81
Low Rolling Plains	0.01	2.53	12.56	23.78	51
North Central Texas	0.00	2.46	18.26	34.00	54
East Texas	0.00	2.02	25.38	45.69	78
Trans Pecos	0.00	1.34	7.01	12.96	82
Edwards Plateau	0.06	2.50	12.35	24.01	56
South Central Texas	0.04	2.62	14.58	34.48	55
Upper Coast	0.12	4.07	36.40	47.63	149
South Texas	0.21	4.50	10.07	23.49	50
Lower Valley	0.00	6.97	13.38	25.34	58

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

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:

www.srh.noaa.gov/ftcshare/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

