

# OKLAHOMA CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

## 2001 CROP WEATHER REVIEW

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January: Cold winter weather with various combinations of snow, rain and freezing rain continued what was already one of the coldest winters on record. The cold and wet conditions restricted growth of wheat pasture and limited available grazing. Wheat conditions for the month were rated in mostly fair to poor condition and growth was slow due to the persistent cold. Supplemental feeding was heavy in most areas of the State.

February: February was almost a repeat of January. Four major winter storms featured a combination of freezing or liquid precipitation that left the State wet and soggy. All districts had above average rainfall. This combined with the cold temperatures limited growth of wheat pasture and available grazing. Winter wheat conditions were rated in mainly fair to poor condition and growth was minimal. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition despite the wintery weather. The lack of available grazing resulted in heavy supplemental feeding in most areas.

March: A third month of wet conditions limited field work. With limited warm and sunny days, wheat development was at a standstill. At the end of the month only 24 percent was in the joint stage, compared with the five year average of 65 percent. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated entirely adequate or surplus. Range and pasture conditions were in mostly fair or poor condition and many livestock producers were running out of hay for supplemental feeding.

April: Dry and warm temperatures finally arrived allowing field activities to get into full swing. Wheat development nearly caught up with the five year average and was rated in mostly fair to good condition by month's end. Hay cutting began to pick up with the first cutting of both alfalfa and other hay running ahead of normal. Pasture and range conditions began showing some good growth.

May: Severe thunderstorms erupted several times during the month bringing hail, tornadoes, and isolated flooding. Army worm pressure was a concern but began to ease by the end of the month. Row crop planting and emergence was running ahead of the average pace. By the end of May, wheat harvest was underway in the Southwest district and in a few isolated areas of the Central district.

June: Near normal temperatures with less-than normal precipitation characterized the State's weather during the month. The first one hundred degree days arrived in the West, but the statewide average temperature of 77 degrees was on the 30 year monthly mean. Wheat harvest advanced quickly and was mostly harvested by the end of June. Many fields had already been plowed. Nearly all the cotton and peanut crop had emerged with 27 percent of the peanut crop starting to peg, and 26 percent of the cotton squaring. Watermelons setting fruit was running well ahead of schedule and harvest was just beginning.

July: Extreme heat made the month of July the sixth warmest since record keeping began in 1892. The extreme heat and lack of precipitation hampered the growth and development of all row crops. Corn silking did advance rapidly because of the heat. With the exception of corn, all row crops were in mostly fair to poor condition. By month's end soil moisture supplies were nearly depleted with most rated short or very short. Pastures began showing signs of stress with most being rated in fair or poor condition.

August: Rain and cooler temperatures arrived around mid-month providing some much needed relief from the heat and dry conditions. However, the rain was too late to benefit many of the dryland row crops. Livestock producers reported heavier than normal culling and early weaning due to the lack of pasture. By month's end, harvesting of corn, sorghum and soybeans was getting started, which was well ahead of normal. Small grain seedbed preparation was well underway with wheat out front with 50 percent prepared.

September: Rains helped replenish depleted soil moisture supplies during the month, but it was mostly too late to help row crops. Pastures did improve with the added moisture. Some hay producers were baling even low quality fields to try to replenish depleted hay stocks. Peanut and cotton harvest was just beginning. Just over half of next year's wheat crop was planted.

October: Mild temperatures and improved soil moisture allowed planting of fall small grains to take off early in the month. Heavy thunderstorms in the middle of the month spawned tornadoes that caused serious damage in parts of the State. However, many western areas had gone several weeks with no precipitation. Small grains were rapidly emerging by month's end, but many areas still needed rain for wheat development. Seventy-two percent of the peanut crop had been dug and 57 percent combined. Cotton harvest was approaching the halfway point.

November: Much of the State's wheat was showing signs of stress because of the dry conditions. Only 29 percent of the wheat was in good or better condition. Row crop harvest was nearly complete for all crops except cotton which was 74 percent complete. Livestock producers were concerned about the limited availability of wheat pasture for grazing. Cutting and baling of hay continued where possible. The month went down as the seventh warmest on record.

December: Cold temperatures and freezing weather persisted throughout the State during December with large amounts of snow, sleet, and ice received during the last two weeks of the month. The accumulated precipitation left thousands without electricity. Livestock were rated in mostly fair condition, but most producers were heavily feeding hay and protein. Wheat pasture available for grazing stopped and some fields were already grazed off.

**OKLAHOMA ANNUAL PRECIPITATION, 1920-2001**  
**MEAN PRECIPITATION = 34.39**

