

# Oklahoma

# Crop Weather Summary

## 2006 Crop Weather Review

- January:** The average temperature was 10 degrees above normal for Oklahoma during January 2006, surpassing the old State record. Precipitation for the State was well behind normal at less than an inch, resulting in the 26<sup>th</sup> driest January on record. The lack of moisture had an impact on wheat with nearly 60 percent of the crop rated in the poor to very poor range. Pastures suffered from limited precipitation and water for livestock was scarce.
- February:** Weather during the month of February brought no relief to the drought which had gripped the State of Oklahoma the previous months. Precipitation for February averaged just 0.31 inches for the State, the fifth driest on record. Small grain conditions deteriorated during the month of February from the lack of moisture. Pasture conditions worsened with three-fourths in the poor to very poor range. Livestock conditions also declined in response to poor pasture conditions and limited water supplies.
- March:** Oklahoma received a reprieve from the drought as an average of 2.88 inches of precipitation fell in March. Two major tornados hit the State during the month of March, the first significant tornados to hit Oklahoma since May of 2004. Between the March showers, producers planted oats and prepared seedbeds for row crops. Peaches, apricots, and strawberries suffered freeze damage when temperatures dropped in the 20's near the end of March. Pastures started to green up, but livestock producers were forced to continue supplemental feeding.
- April:** The average temperature for April was 6.5 degrees above normal, making it the warmest April on record. Average precipitation for the month totaled 3.27 inches, but the majority of the rain fell near the end of the month. Many districts reported stunted wheat height and delayed head filling, a result of limited moisture. Producers had greater than 50 percent of the corn planted by the end of April. Pasture growth remained behind normal for the month.
- May:** The average precipitation for May was 2.18 inches below normal, resulting in the 27<sup>th</sup> driest May on record. Farmers had begun harvesting wheat the later part of May and had about 25 percent of the crop harvested by the end of the month. Producers had a good portion of row crops planted by the end of May. Row crop conditions remained in mostly the good to fair range. Livestock and pasture conditions showed little improvement during the month.
- June:** Like the previous months of 2006, June received below average rainfall. Temperatures averaged in the high 70's, slightly above normal. Producers had the majority of small grains harvested by the end of June. The hay harvest was in full swing during June but hay conditions had taken a toll from short moisture supplies. Livestock continued to suffer from limited forage and diminished water supplies.
- July:** Triple digit temperatures were recorded more than 20 times in some areas across Oklahoma during the month of July. While temperatures were up, average precipitation was down almost an inch. Row crop conditions deteriorated during the month from high temperatures and reduced precipitation. The heat and lack of rain took a heavy toll on pastures. Limited forage and drinking water resulted in some cattle producers reducing their herds.