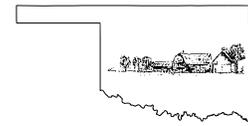


# OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER



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March 22, 2004

A combined contribution with  
-Cooperative Extension Service  
-USDA Farm Service Agency  
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

## Spring Activities Beginning Throughout the State

**March 22** - Farmers had good weather last week to begin fullscale field preparations. Most areas have dried out and, with little additional rainfall last week, there were 5.7 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was still adequate. Topsoil moisture was at 3 percent surplus, 86 percent adequate and 11 percent short. Subsoil moisture was at 2 percent surplus, 73 percent adequate, 23 percent short and 2 percent very short. Temperatures averaged in the high 50's throughout the state.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	0	11	86	3
Last Week	0	3	85	12
Last Year	38	22	28	12

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	2	23	73	2
Last Week	5	18	71	6
Last Year	44	24	26	6

**Small Grains:** Wheat and rye conditions were rated as mostly good. The winter wheat condition improved from last week to 12 percent excellent, 46 percent good, 28 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 3 percent very poor. Most areas were seeing improvement in wheat conditions due to recent rains and warmer temperatures. However, for some areas the moisture was too little, too late as producers were expected to disaster some of their wheat, mostly in the Southwest. Wheat progressed from 25 percent jointing last week to 44 percent jointing this week. Rye condition was 9 percent excellent, 60 percent good, 20 percent fair, 7 percent poor and 4 percent very poor. Fifty-six percent of the rye crop was jointed. Oat condition was at 4 percent excellent, 42 percent good, 41 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 2 percent very poor with 88 percent of the acreage planted and 8 percent jointing. Insect activity was still light.



**Row Crops:** It was a busy week for producers with seedbed preparation for row crops underway with nearly ideal weather conditions. Seedbed preparation for all row crops continued to make good progress. Cotton seedbed prepared, at 39 percent, was ahead of last year but the same as the five-year average. Peanut and soybean seedbed preparation were both ahead of last year at 20 percent each. Peanuts were also slightly ahead of the five-year average at 18 percent while soybeans were slightly behind the five-year average of 21 percent. Corn and sorghum were both slightly behind in progress from both last year and the five-year average at 30 and 12 percent, respectively.

### SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 21, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	3	11	28	46	12
Rye	4	7	20	60	9
Oats	2	11	41	42	4

**Pasture:** Pasture and range conditions continued to improve. They ranged from mostly fair to good with conditions rated as 6 percent excellent, 27 percent good, 43 percent fair, 18 percent poor, and 6 percent very poor. The mild, warmer temperatures have prompted pastures to begin to green up.

**Livestock:** Livestock condition changed little from last week, ranging from mostly good to fair condition. Livestock condition was rated as 15 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 27 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Milder weather continues to help livestock conditions. Most producers have taken their cattle off wheat they intend to harvest for grain. Some have sold most of their stockers. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged 95.86 per cwt., up 36 cents from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased, averaging 90.39 per cwt.

### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 21, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	5	27	52	15
Pasture & Range	6	18	43	27	6

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary  
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**OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS**

Week Ending March 21, 2004

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum				
Jointing	44	25	48	42	Seedbed Prepared	12	8	17	15
Oats -					Soybeans				
Planted	88	77	88	86	Seedbed Prepared	20	13	18	21
Jointing	8	1	4	13	Peanuts				
Rye -					Seedbed Prepared	20	14	16	18
Jointing	56	46	n/a	n/a	Cotton				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	39	10	36	39
Seedbed Prepared	30	22	36	33					
Planted	5	n/a	7	5					

**WEATHER FOR Week Ending March 21, 2004** - Temperatures ranged from 25 degrees at Kenton on Wednesday, March 17, to 88 degrees at Hollis and Buffalo on Friday, March 19. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. Panhandle district to 0.35 in. East Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 44 degrees at Foraker on Tuesday, March 16, to 69 degrees at Grandfield and Waurika on Saturday, March 20.

**MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA**

Week Ending March 21, 2004

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2004 to March 21, 2004		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	70	36	53	0.00	1.90	+0.85	181
West Central	71	44	57	0.01	3.75	+2.20	242
Southwest	73	47	60	0.01	3.27	+1.81	224
North Central	69	39	54	0.02	3.31	+1.58	192
Central	71	44	58	0.02	3.40	+1.31	163
South Central	72	49	61	0.02	1.60	- 0.69	70
Northeast	67	40	54	0.03	3.88	+1.52	164
East Central	69	45	58	0.35	2.73	+0.09	103
Southeast	70	48	60	0.09	1.78	- 1.11	62