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March 29, 2004

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

## Planting Underway but More Rain is Needed

**March 29** - Warm, sunny weather allowed most farmers ample opportunity to work in the fields last week. There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Most reporters commented that they need more rain in their areas. High winds throughout the week took a toll on soil moisture supplies and both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies declined from last week. Topsoil moisture was at 2 percent surplus, 75 percent adequate, 21 percent short and 2 percent very short. Subsoil moisture was at 2 percent surplus, 63 percent adequate, 31 percent short and 4 percent very short. Temperatures averaged in the mid 60's throughout the state.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	2	21	75	2
Last Week	0	11	86	3
Last Year	9	22	67	2

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	4	31	63	2
Last Week	2	23	73	2
Last Year	6	25	67	2

**Small Grains:** Wheat and oat conditions changed very little from last week and were rated as mostly fair to good. Winter wheat was 9 percent excellent, 49 percent good, 28 percent fair, 10 percent poor and 4 percent very poor. Wheat growth accelerated last week but more moisture was needed. Wheat progressed from 44 percent jointing last week to 62 percent jointing this week. Oat condition was at 3 percent excellent, 41 percent good, 43 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 2 percent very poor with 95 percent of the acreage planted and 18 percent jointing. Rye condition was 8 percent excellent, 71 percent good, 15 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Eighty percent of the rye crop was jointed. Insect activity was still light.

**Row Crops:** Producers made good progress with their seedbed preparation. Corn planting got a good start last week and was ahead of normal with 14 percent of the crop planted compared to the 5 year average of 8 percent. Seedbed preparation hit the halfway mark at 50 percent. Cotton seedbed prepared, at 45 percent, was slightly behind last year and the five year average. Peanut seedbed preparation was up slightly from last year at 23 percent. Soybean seedbeds prepared were at 32 percent, up from both last year and the five year average. Sorghum progress was slightly behind normal with 15 percent of the seedbeds prepared.

### SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 28, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	4	10	28	49	9
Last Week	3	11	28	46	12
Last Year	0	4	25	58	13
Rye					
This Week	2	4	15	71	8
Oats					
This Week	2	11	43	41	3

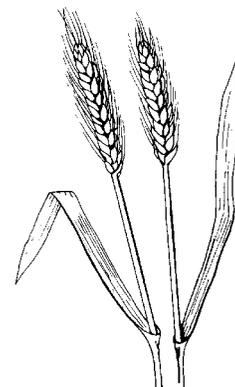
**Pasture:** Pasture and range conditions were mostly unchanged from last week. They ranged from mostly fair to good with conditions rated as 4 percent excellent, 27 percent good, 45 percent fair, 19 percent poor, and 5 percent very poor. The mild, warmer temperatures have prompted pastures to begin to green up; however, more rain is needed.

**Livestock:** Livestock conditions were very similar to last week with most livestock reported in fair to excellent condition. Livestock condition was rated as 12 percent excellent, 51 percent good, 30 percent fair, 6 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Milder weather continues to help livestock conditions. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$97.72 per cwt., up \$1.86 from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds decreased slightly, averaging \$90.22 per cwt.

### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 28, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	6	30	51	12
Pasture & Range	5	19	45	27	4



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS**

Week Ending March 28, 2004

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum				
Jointing	62	44	67	54	Seedbed Prepared	15	12	21	19
Oats -					Soybeans				
Planted	95	88	91	91	Seedbed Prepared	32	20	27	28
Jointing	18	8	12	19	Peanuts				
Rye -					Seedbed Prepared	23	20	20	25
Jointing	80	56	n/a	n/a	Cotton				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	45	39	46	46
Seedbed Prepared	50	30	52	44					
Planted	14	5	13	8					

**Weather for Week Ending March 28, 2004** - Temperatures ranged from 27 degrees at Nowata on Monday, March 22, to 86 degrees at Hollis on Thursday, March 25. Precipitation averaged 0.13 in. Panhandle and South Central districts to 2.04 in. Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 47 degrees at Copan on Monday, March 22, to 69 degrees at Mangum on Saturday, March 27.

**MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA**

Week Ending March 28, 2004

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2004 to March 28, 2004		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	77	47	62	0.13	2.03	+0.56	138
West Central	73	52	62	0.74	4.49	+2.32	207
Southwest	73	55	63	0.41	3.64	+1.60	178
North Central	72	52	61	1.14	4.46	+2.03	184
Central	70	55	62	0.78	4.21	+1.28	144
South Central	70	56	63	0.13	1.74	- 1.46	54
Northeast	69	53	61	2.04	5.93	+2.61	179
East Central	70	54	62	0.85	3.57	- 0.12	97
Southeast	71	55	63	0.56	2.34	- 1.70	58