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May 3, 2004

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

Wheat Is "Headed" In The Right Direction

May 2 - On Friday, April 30, more hail and heavy rains poured down in areas across Oklahoma. As a result, an undetermined amount of wheat acres were either severely damaged or completely destroyed. Wet conditions also slowed down the planting of summer crops as well as alfalfa and other hay harvest. Six out of the nine reporting districts had above normal precipitation. Topsoil moisture was at 82 percent surplus to adequate, 15 percent short and 3 percent very short. Subsoil moisture was at 71 percent surplus to adequate, 21 percent short and 8 percent very short. There were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	3	15	72	10
Last Week	6	19	64	11
Last Year	15	36	48	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	8	21	65	6
Last Week	10	25	60	5
Last Year	14	34	52	0

Small Grains: Wheat development continues ahead of schedule. Despite hail and heavy rains, wheat progress advanced rapidly last week with 91 percent of the crop headed by week's end. Thirteen percent of the wheat was in the soft dough stage compared to normal of 10 percent. Wheat condition was at 11 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 28 percent fair, 9 percent poor, and 4 percent very poor. Rye condition improved to 14 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 19 percent fair, 10 percent poor to very poor. Rye headed, at 97 percent, increased 7 points from the previous week. Soft dough stage for rye reached 26 percent. Oat conditions were at 2 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 40 percent fair, and 10 percent poor to very poor. Oats jointing were up 7 points from last week to 83 percent.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 2, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	4	9	28	48	11
Last Week	4	10	28	46	12
Last Year	3	8	24	47	18
Rye					
This Week	3	7	19	57	14
Oats					
This Week	2	8	40	48	2

Row Crops: Row crop preparations were slowed by inclement weather across the state. Sorghum seedbed preparation increased 3 points from 42 to 45. Thirteen percent of the crop was reported planted, increasing slightly from the previous week. Corn seedbed preparations were nearly complete at 98 percent. Planting was at 54 percent, the same as a year ago, but significantly below the 5-year average of 75 percent. Corn emergence increased one point from the previous week to 37. Soybean seedbed preparation reached 70 percent and planting increased 7 points to 19 percent from the previous week. Fifteen percent of the peanuts were planted, 7 points below last year, but 4 points above the five year average. Cotton progress followed historic trends very closely. Eighty-six percent of the cotton seedbeds had been prepared, the same as normal. Eight percent of the cotton was planted compared to the historic average of 9 percent.

Hay: Harvesting of alfalfa and other hay was active this week. The first cutting of alfalfa was at 41 percent, up 6 points from last week. This is one point above last year, and 7 points above the five year average. Alfalfa conditions were at 16 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 22 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Conditions for other hay were at 10 percent excellent, 50 percent good, 33 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 2, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	5	22	56	16
Other Hay	2	5	33	50	10

Pasture: The heavy downpours and hail had both a good and bad impact on pastures. The hail damaged some pasture land in certain areas, however, the much needed rain helped green up certain pasture acres as well. Pasture conditions were rated as mostly good to fair. Conditions were at 10 percent excellent, 78 percent good to fair, 9 percent poor and 3 percent very poor.

Livestock: Livestock conditions stayed consistent with last week. Livestock insect activity was 83 percent light to moderate. Three percent reported heavy activity and 14 percent reported no insect activity. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$102.51 per cwt., up \$2.83 from last week. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds was \$95.78 cwt., an increase of \$2.85 from last week.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 2, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	2	21	57	19
Pasture & Range	3	9	30	48	10

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending May 2, 2004

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Headed	91	70	83	73	Seedbed Prepared	70	67	64	66
Soft Dough	13	n/a	9	10	Planted	19	12	23	24
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Jointing	83	76	79	82	Seedbed Prepared	87	76	79	77
Headed	39	21	32	42	Planted	15	6	22	11
Rye -					Cotton -				
Headed	97	90	n/a	n/a	Seedbed Prepared	86	82	88	86
Soft Dough	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	Planted	8	3	13	9
Corn -					Alfalfa -				
Seedbed Prepared	98	95	92	93	1 st Cutting	41	35	40	34
Planted	54	46	54	75	Other Hay -				
Emerged	37	36	32	35	1 st Cutting	20	11	14	14
Sorghum -					Watermelons -				
Seedbed Prepared	45	42	47	54	Planted	38	n/a	44	46
Planted	13	7	13	10					

Weather for Week Ending May 2, 2004 - Temperatures ranged from 33 degrees at Boise City on Sunday, May 2nd, to 88 degrees at Foraker on Tuesday, April 27th. Precipitation averaged 0.08 in. Panhandle district to 1.32 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 53 degrees at Washington on Saturday, May 1st, to 73 degrees at Idabel on Friday, April 30th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending May 2, 2004

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2004 to May 2, 2004		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	70	42	56	0.08	4.94	+1.24	134
West Central	72	47	60	0.22	6.85	+1.54	129
Southwest	74	49	61	0.77	6.37	+1.12	121
North Central	72	48	60	0.47	8.07	+2.12	136
Central	74	49	62	0.79	7.07	- 0.06	99
South Central	75	50	63	1.17	5.83	- 1.84	76
Northeast	73	49	61	1.00	10.77	+2.75	134
East Central	74	50	62	0.72	9.56	+0.76	109
Southeast	74	50	63	1.32	8.07	- 1.31	86