



## Warm Temperature Helps Wheat Growth

**March 9** - Warm temperatures and mild conditions occurred last week across most of the State which were greatly needed to advance wheat growth. With the moisture from the last month's snow storm, many producers begin to fertilizing and preparing for spring planting. However, parts of the Southwest district are still in desperate need of moisture. Statewide, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies slightly improved from last week. There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	3	23	70	4
Last Week	3	22	66	9
Last Year	39	29	31	1

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	8	22	68	2
Last Week	6	25	65	4
Last Year	44	27	28	1

**Small Grains:** Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly good to fair. Winter wheat jointing reached 15 percent compared with the 5 percent last year and the 5 year average of 19 percent. Rye and oats conditions were rated in mostly good to fair. Oats planted reached 60 percent, which was behind the 5 year average of 76 percent.

**Row Crops:** Seedbed preparation was underway for this year's row crops. Corn and Sorghum seedbed prepared were 19 and 2 percent while soybeans and peanuts seedbed prepared were 5 and 8 percent, respectively.

### SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT Week Ending March 9, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	1	5	26	54	14
Rye	2	6	25	58	9
Oats	5	6	42	45	2

**Pasture:** Operators have been moving cattle off of wheat intended for harvest. Grazeout fields of wheat provided adequate pasture except for those which were limited by wet and soggy fields. Native pastures in Eastern Oklahoma are not providing adequate grazing due to lack of rainfall. This lack of grazing availability has led to heavy supplement feeding continuing in some areas. Statewide, range and pasture was rated in mostly good to fair condition.

**Livestock:** Livestock were rated in mostly good to fair condition. Prospects for hay supplies for the rest of the season were rated 19 percent below average, 58 percent average, and 23 percent above average. Livestock marketings were running below average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds average \$78.36 per cwt. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$74.75 per cwt.

### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT Week Ending March 9, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	5	34	53	7
Pasture & Range	7	20	42	30	1

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary  
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**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS**

Week Ending March 9, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat - Jointing	15	N/A	5	19	Sorghum Seedbed Prepared	2	N/A	4	8
Oats- Planted	60	N/A	80	76	Soybeans Seedbed Prepared	5	N/A	6	13
Corn - Seedbed Prepared	19	N/A	24	18	Peanuts Seedbed Prepared	8	N/A	8	10

**WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 9, 2003** - Temperatures ranged from 12 degrees at El Reno on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to 79 degrees at Tipton on Tuesday, March 4<sup>nd</sup>. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. in most districts to 0.03 in. North Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 32 degrees at Hooker on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and May Ranch Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to 56 degrees at Idabel on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA**

Week Ending March 9, 2003

Districts	Temperature			This Week	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Average		September 1, 2002 to March 9, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	56	20	36	0.00	7.46	+0.70	110
West Central	58	22	38	0.00	11.32	+0.14	101
Southwest	61	25	42	0.00	12.18	-0.35	97
North Central	51	22	36	0.03	12.86	+0.76	106
Central	57	24	40	0.00	13.36	-3.40	80
South Central	59	31	45	0.00	15.10	-4.26	78
Northeast	53	24	38	0.01	11.00	-7.93	58
East Central	57	30	42	0.00	13.01	-9.25	58
Southeast	60	30	46	0.00	17.43	-8.50	56