



April 14, 2003

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

Winter Wheat Begins to Head

April 13 - The week began with unusually cold and windy conditions throughout most of the State. However, by week's end, conditions warmed up rapidly. Most areas of the State experienced heavy winds with no rain which caused a reduction in soil moisture supplies, particularly topsoil moisture. Some erosion was reported in uncovered fields in scattered areas. Statewide, both subsoil and topsoil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate to short. Farmers had 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	14	42	44	0
Last Week	10	24	65	1
Last Year	23	18	46	13

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	11	27	62	0
Last Week	8	28	63	1
Last Year	28	31	34	7

Small Grains: Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly good to fair. However, there were one to two nights during the week where temperatures dipped below the freezing mark across most of the state. There were some reports of light freeze damage but it is too early at this time to evaluate the extent of the damage that may have occurred to the wheat crop. Ninety-one percent of the wheat was jointing, compared to the 67 percent last year and the 5-year average of 77 percent. Some of the wheat crop had begun to head in isolated areas, especially in the Southwest District. Some areas in Southwest District reported signs of stress to the wheat crop due to lack of moisture. Crop insect activities were rated none to light.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparation for all row crops made good progress despite the heavy winds and unusually cold conditions. Cotton and sorghum were ahead of the 5-year average for seedbed preparation at 75 and 40 percent, respectively. By week's end, corn seedbeds were 70 percent prepared, while 49 percent of the peanut seedbeds had been prepared. Sorghum producers began planting and by week's end had 3 percent of the crop planted. Corn producers planted an additional 2 percent of the crop during the week and had 23 percent planted by end of the week.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 13, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	2	7	23	50	18
Last Week	0	5	25	52	18
Last Year	24	19	33	21	3
Rye					
This Week	2	6	22	60	10
Oats					
This Week	2	7	32	55	4

Pasture: Warm conditions late in the week continued to advance the growth of pasture. Statewide, pastures and ranges were rated in good to fair condition. Some producers began applying fertilizer to pastures during the week.

Livestock: Livestock conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Livestock insect activities were rated as none to light. Cattle auctions reported marketings were average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds decreased from last week and averaged \$83.35 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also decreased from last week and averaged \$76.88 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 13, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	5	27	57	10
Pasture & Range	4	10	40	39	7



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OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending April 13, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	91	78	67	77	Seedbed Prepared	40	35	30	32
Headed	6	n/a	3	8	Planted	3	n/a	2	1
Oats -					Soybeans -				
Jointing	50	30	25	51	Seedbed Prepared	38	34	37	45
Corn -					Peanuts -				
Seedbed Prepared	70	66	70	76	Seedbed Prepared	49	36	56	51
Planted	23	21	29	23	Cotton -				
					Seedbed Prepared	75	65	63	69

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 20 degrees at Hooker on Wednesday, April 9th to 94 degrees at Hooker on Sunday, April 13th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. in 8 districts to 0.01 in. Panhandle district. Soil temperatures averaged 42 degrees at Shawnee and Vinita on Tuesday, April 8th to 71 degrees at Durant on Sunday, April 13th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending April 13, 2003

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to April 13, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	73	34	54	0.01	1.27	- 1.16	52
West Central	70	37	54	0.00	0.96	- 2.56	27
Southwest	72	37	55	0.00	1.00	- 2.42	29
North Central	70	36	53	0.00	2.68	- 1.28	68
Central	69	38	54	0.00	2.90	- 1.87	61
South Central	70	39	55	0.00	1.55	- 3.63	30
Northeast	67	37	52	0.00	4.26	- 1.14	79
East Central	68	37	53	0.00	3.08	- 2.89	52
Southeast	71	38	55	0.00	2.75	- 3.68	43