



RAIN BOOSTS WHEAT GROWTH

April 27 - General rainfall during the week promoted wheat growth and development. Every Mesonet station in Oklahoma recorded rainfall ranging from Fort Cobb with 0.02 inch to Cherokee with 1.95 inches. When added to the rain from the previous weekend, some sites in northern Oklahoma reported more than 4 inches of precipitation. Topsoil moisture supplies improved to the best level since late March. The southern third of the State remains dry and moisture supplies there are dwindling because of insufficient moisture, constant wind, and warm weather. The number of days suitable for fieldwork was 4.9.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	5	26	68	1
Last Week	6	36	56	2
Last Year	15	13	62	10

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	11	27	61	1
Last Week	10	33	55	2
Last Year	23	26	46	5

Small Grains: Wheat remained in mostly good condition. Farmers in the "Bread Basket" are very optimistic about the 2003 wheat harvest. If future weather will cooperate, there is potential for excellent yields. One reporter said "scary--almost too good." Light rain in the Panhandle helped to settle the dust but a good soaking rain is needed since many dryland fields are starting to turn brown. Wheat made significant strides in heading, climbing from 23 percent last week to 64 percent this week. Heading across the State ranged from less than 15 percent in the East Central and Southeast to just over 85 percent in the Southwest and West Central districts. Oats were rated in good-to-fair condition with 17 percent of the crop headed. Insect pressures remained very light.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 27, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	3	7	24	49	17
Last Week	2	7	23	52	16
Last Year	21	16	29	30	4
Rye					
This Week	2	8	29	48	13
Oats					
This Week	3	6	36	50	5

Row Crops: Planting made limited advances because of recent rainfall. Corn planting made the most progress with 45 percent of the crop planted by week's end. Sorghum planting has yet to begin in the Panhandle but elsewhere ranged from 1 percent in the West Central district to over 55 percent complete in the Southeast. Soybean planting stood at 15 percent in the major-producing Northeast district. In the eastern two-thirds of Oklahoma, soybean planting ranged from 2 percent in the East Central district to 36 percent in the Southeast. Peanut planting made a significant increase in the major-producing Southwest district where 18 percent of the crop was planted. Cotton was 20 percent planted in the North Central district but less than 3 percent completed in every other district.

Hay: Alfalfa was rated in mostly good condition. First cuttings made significant increases in the southern half of the State. The South Central district lead the way with 68 percent of first cutting alfalfa harvested. All other hay was rated in good-to-fair condition. Producers in the southwestern third of Oklahoma were showing 20 percent of the first cuttings harvested.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 27, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	5	21	62	11
Other Hay	1	6	37	48	8

Livestock: Livestock remained in mostly good to fair condition. Insect activity was mostly light but some heavy pressures were noted in the South Central district. There were a few reports of cattle ill or dying because of ingesting toxic plants. Beef and dairy producers were applying nitrogen fertilizers to counteract the toxicity. Cattle auctions were near last week's level. Prices for feeder steers and heifers less than 800 pounds decreased about \$1 from last week.

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions remained rated good to fair. Cool season grasses should benefit with the additional moisture. Sunshine and warm weather is needed for warm season grass growth.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 27, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	3	25	59	12
Pasture & Range	3	10	37	42	8

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending April 27, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Jointing	98	97	94	96	Seedbed Prepared	60	57	55	60
Headed	64	23	51	45	Planted	18	10	15	19
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Jointing	73	56	63	76	Seedbed Prepared	78	76	74	70
Headed	17	4	19	34	Planted	14	4	4	4
Corn -					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	91	88	85	93	Seedbed Prepared	87	83	81	81
Planted	45	30	66	68	Planted	3	3	4	5
Emerged	24	10	29	23	Alfalfa -				
Sorghum -					1 st Cutting	26	9	5	23
Seedbed Prepared	46	45	47	48	Other Hay -				
Planted	12	7	7	6	1 st Cutting	9	4	2	8

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 27, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 32 degrees at Boise City on Monday, April 21st to 96 degrees at Altus on Sunday, April 27th. Precipitation averaged 0.27 in. Southwest district to 0.82 in. North Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 49 degrees at Hooker on Monday, April 21st to 74 degrees at Durant on Sunday, April 27th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending April 27, 2003

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to April 27, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	69	42	56	0.44	2.35	- 0.95	71
West Central	72	47	60	0.72	3.26	- 1.48	69
Southwest	76	49	62	0.27	2.61	- 2.05	56
North Central	70	46	58	0.82	5.01	- 0.33	94
Central	73	49	61	0.34	4.18	- 2.24	65
South Central	75	51	63	0.54	2.41	- 4.52	35
Northeast	72	49	60	0.69	5.68	- 1.59	78
East Central	73	50	61	0.67	4.56	- 3.43	57
Southeast	74	50	63	0.59	3.73	- 4.79	44