



Drought Conditions Continue to Hinder Crops and Pastures

August 10 - With the month of July being the fourth driest July on record, the Governor of Oklahoma requested federal assistance for 62 counties plagued by drought conditions. Hot and dry weather continued across Oklahoma for much of the week although scattered thunderstorms moved in over the weekend bringing a little relief to some areas. The rainfall was a much needed sight and crops and pastures should begin to respond favorably in the areas that received moisture. However, the rain that was received was still well short of what was needed to offset the drought conditions. Most areas did receive some moisture during the week as only four Mesonet stations failed to receive any rainfall. The West Central district received the most precipitation with 1.49 inches while the Southeast district received the least with 0.12 inches. Despite these showers, all the districts precipitation totals remained well below normal for the current growing season. Soil moisture supplies continued to be rated as mostly very short to short. Some of the weekly reports arrived before weekend rains which influenced the soil moisture categories in the tables below. Farmers had 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	46	35	19	0
Last Week	50	33	17	0
Last Year	21	40	39	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	32	45	23	0
Last Week	32	44	24	0
Last Year	31	33	36	0

Small Grains: Preparation for fall small grain planting progressed despite the hot and dry conditions. Additional rainfall is needed before most fields will be ready to work. Wheat stubble was plowed at least once on 95 percent of the State's acreage, 3 percentage points ahead of normal pace. At week's end, 15 percent of wheat ground had been prepared for seeding. Oat seedbed preparation gained 4 percentage points to 13 percent complete. Rye seedbed preparation was 25 percent complete.

Row Crops: The hot and dry weather continued to stress row crops. However, crop conditions should improve in some areas, depending on the amount of rainfall received. Corn silking advanced to 92 percent complete. Corn maturing increased 8 percentage points from last week to 28 percent complete. Corn harvest was underway in some areas. Sixty percent of the sorghum had headed, slightly ahead of the five-year average. Twenty-five percent of the sorghum acreage was coloring, also ahead of normal for this time of year. Soybeans blooming advanced to 76 percent while 54 percent were setting pods. At week's end, peanuts setting pods reached 85 percent while one percent of the crop had reached maturity. The majority of the cotton crop was rated in

fair to good condition, with 99 percent of the acreage squaring and 70 percent setting bolls. Bolls began opening in a few isolated fields in the Southwest and West Central districts. Crop insect activity remained mostly light to moderate across the State.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 10, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	2	15	35	48
Sorghum	2	19	51	28	0
Soybeans	3	17	37	40	3
Peanuts	0	7	37	49	7
Cotton	7	14	46	29	4

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay conditions ranged from mostly poor to good across the state. Producers continued to be busy cutting alfalfa and other hay despite reduced hay growth. The fourth cutting of alfalfa advanced to 25 percent cut. The second cutting of other hay was at 46 percent cut.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 10, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	5	17	43	31	4
Other Hay	6	17	46	27	4

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions ranged from mostly poor to good. The absence of adequate rainfall for pastures continued to be a problem Statewide during the week, although those areas that received moisture should exhibit some improvement. Many counties reported that grasshoppers have become a major problem.

Livestock: Livestock conditions were rated as mostly fair to good. Supplemental feeding continued in drier areas that lacked sufficient pastures. Producers were conserving hay as much as possible due to the short supplies. Livestock insect activities were rated as mostly light to moderate. Cattle auctions reported an average increase in marketings for the week. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week by an average of eighty-two cents per cwt. and averaged \$94.71 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased from last week by seventy-five cents per cwt. and averaged \$90.04 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 10, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	3	29	53	14
Pasture & Range	7	26	40	24	3

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending August 10, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Peanuts -				
Plowed	95	93	94	92	Setting Pods	85	64	84	80
Seedbed Prepared	15	8	35	23	Mature	1	n/a	4	2
Rye					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	25	n/a	29	28	Squaring	99	90	94	96
Oats -					Setting Bolls	70	52	72	77
Plowed	96	94	97	92	Bolls Opening	2	n/a	1	1
Seedbed Prepared	13	9	27	19	Alfalfa -				
Corn -					3 rd Cutting	95	93	93	85
Silking	92	81	99	99	4 th Cutting	25	7	38	25
Dough	61	50	72	78	Other Hay -				
Mature	28	20	44	22	1 st Cutting	99	97	98	97
Sorghum -					2 nd Cutting	46	37	65	42
Headed	60	51	56	59	Watermelons -				
Coloring	25	18	38	23	Harvested	91	77	83	77
Soybeans -									
Blooming	76	60	80	76					
Setting Pods	54	37	57	51					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 10, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 61 degrees at Boise City on Wednesday, August 6th to 111 degrees at Mangum on Thursday, August 7th. Precipitation averaged 0.12 in. Southeast district to 1.49 in. West Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 76 degrees at Shawnee on Monday, August 4th to 97 degrees at Grandfield on Friday, August, 8th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending August 10, 2003

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to August 10, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	98	68	82	0.84	11.42	- 1.69	87
West Central	101	71	85	1.49	12.29	- 4.48	73
Southwest	102	73	87	0.66	13.91	- 3.20	81
North Central	98	71	83	0.50	13.52	- 4.75	74
Central	97	72	83	0.56	14.50	- 5.89	71
South Central	100	72	85	0.63	13.03	- 7.88	62
Northeast	92	69	80	0.41	19.70	- 2.25	90
East Central	93	71	81	0.19	17.32	- 5.75	75
Southeast	95	71	82	0.12	15.77	- 8.71	64