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September 22, 2003

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

Moisture Helps Small Grain Crops Development

September 21- Temperatures were relatively cool throughout the week with all districts averaging 82 degrees or less. Heavy thunderstorms crossed through much of the southern parts of the State over the weekend producing rain, hail, and high winds. The South Central district received the most precipitation with 1.20 inches while the Southwest district received the least with 0.06 inch. Additional amounts of moisture were received in some areas with the greatest weekly rainfall total at the Madill Mesonet site with 3.27 inches. Some farmers were able to apply fertilizer to pastures and wheat fields during the week. Grasshoppers and armyworms have caused some problems in isolated areas for pastures and crops. Soil moisture supplies were rated from short to adequate. Some of the weekly reports arrived before weekend rains which influenced the soil moisture categories in the table below. Farmers had 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	3	24	69	4
Last Week	3	21	72	4
Last Year	3	17	70	10

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	16	37	46	1
Last Week	17	35	47	1
Last Year	10	32	57	1

Small Grains: The recent rainfall improved soil moisture supplies and will assist producers in making progress preparing land and sowing next year's small grain crops. At week's end, 87 percent of the wheat ground had been prepared for seeding. Thirty-eight percent of the State's intended wheat acreage had been planted. Some earlier planted fields were beginning to emerge in areas with favorable soil moisture conditions.

Row Crops: With many parts of the State receiving beneficial moisture late last week, row crop conditions in those areas should show improvement. Harvest activities made fair progress before being slowed over the weekend by the wet weather. Corn harvest made good progress and increased to 58 percent harvested, 6 percentage points behind normal. Sorghum and soybeans were at 23 and 21 percent harvested, respectively. Forty-seven percent of the sorghum acreage had reached maturity. Peanuts mature reached 68 percent with a few isolated fields being dug. The cotton crop was rated in mostly fair to good condition with 68 percent of the cotton opening bolls but harvest is not yet underway.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 21, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	2	14	34	50
Sorghum	4	32	37	27	0
Soybeans	10	17	33	34	6
Peanuts	0	10	41	43	6
Cotton	7	15	45	28	5

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay ranged from fair to good condition. The rains were welcomed by most producers who needed another hay cutting before winter arrives. The fourth and fifth cutting of alfalfa increased to 78 and 25 percent cut, respectively. The second cutting of other hay was at 76 percent cut.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 21, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	4	11	42	38	5
Other Hay	6	22	42	27	3

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions have improved in those areas that have received good moisture during the last few weeks and were rated as mostly fair to good condition Statewide.

Livestock: Supplemental feeding of livestock was still required for some producers but was decreasing with the recovering pasture conditions. Livestock conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Livestock insect activities were rated as 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 and averaged \$103.38 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased from last week and averaged \$96.21 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending September 21, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	2	26	57	15
Pasture & Range	6	19	40	30	5

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OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending September 21, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Seedbed Prepared	87	78	85	82	Blooming	99	96	100	95
Planted	38	17	32	22	Setting Pods	97	92	99	93
Emerged	13	n/a	14	8	Mature	52	35	54	57
Rye -					Harvested	21	14	27	30
Seedbed Prepared	91	79	86	76	Peanuts -				
Planted	50	30	43	28	Mature	68	63	50	36
Emerged	21	n/a	20	11	Dug	3	1	4	2
Oats -					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	66	59	76	70	Bolls Opening	68	61	47	66
Planted	20	3	18	10	Alfalfa -				
Corn -					4 th Cutting	78	68	92	69
Mature	88	78	94	93	5 th Cutting	25	7	34	21
Harvested	58	41	49	64	Other Hay -				
Sorghum -					2 nd Cutting	76	74	88	63
Headed	97	95	98	98					
Coloring	82	75	81	83					
Mature	47	39	62	45					
Harvested	23	17	42	26					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 33 degrees at Beaver on Friday, September 19th to 96 degrees at Goodwell on Tuesday, September 16th. Precipitation averaged 0.06 in. Southwest district to 1.20 in. South Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 57 degrees at Shawnee on Friday, September 19th to 80 degrees at Cherokee on Wednesday, September 17th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending September 21, 2003

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	September 1, 2003 to September 21, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	82	51	66	0.69	1.75	+0.44	133
West Central	81	54	68	0.24	1.37	-0.75	64
Southwest	81	56	69	0.06	0.62	-1.75	26
North Central	80	53	67	0.50	1.45	-0.74	66
Central	79	55	67	0.38	2.39	-0.49	83
South Central	81	58	69	1.20	4.36	+1.32	143
Northeast	78	53	66	0.66	2.89	-0.45	86
East Central	80	55	67	0.70	3.71	+0.24	107
Southeast	82	57	69	0.16	4.38	+1.19	137