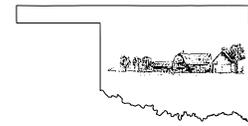


OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER



Vol. 27, No. 4

ISSN-0194-4770)

Issued weekly March - Nov.,
monthly Jan. and Feb., no issue
in December, by the

Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 528804,
Oklahoma City, OK 73152, Phone (405) 522-6190

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/weather/cpcurr/ok-crop-weather>

March 8, 2004

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

March Brings Widespread Rain

March 8 - Last week much needed rain fell across the state. Every district received at least an inch of rain with the Northeast area receiving an average of 3.74 inches. Many ponds are now full, which in turn, will be helpful to livestock. Soil moisture is much improved due to the rain, however, severe flooding occurred in some areas, especially Kingfisher county. Topsoil moisture was 33 percent surplus, 63 percent adequate, 3 percent short, and 1 percent very short. Subsoil moisture was at 13 percent surplus, 62 percent adequate, 21 percent short and 4 percent very short. The temperatures averaged in the low 50's throughout the state. There were only 2.1 days suitable for field work.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	1	3	63	33
Last Week	8	23	62	7
Last Year	3	23	70	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	4	21	62	13
Last Week	21	38	40	1
Last Year	44	22	68	2

Small Grains: Wheat, rye, and oat conditions were rated as mostly good to fair. The winter wheat condition was 7 percent excellent, 37 percent good, 33 percent fair, 15 percent poor and 8 percent very poor. Wheat had 10 percent jointing. Rye condition was 6 percent excellent, 38 percent good, 31 percent fair, 17 percent poor and 8 percent very poor. Oat condition was at 3 percent excellent, 32 percent good, 37 percent fair, 23 percent poor and 5 percent very poor with 63 percent of the acreage planted. Small grains have made some improvement thanks to the rain. Insect activity is light, but army worms are still active in wheat in some areas.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparation has begun for the row crops. Corn seedbed prepared is at 12. Sorghum seedbed prepared is at 6 percent. Soybeans and peanuts seedbed prepared is at 10 and 13 percent, respectively. Due to the rains there was limited field work done during the week. Dry weather is needed to resume field work in most areas.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 8, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	8	15	33	37	7
Rye	8	17	31	38	6
Oats	5	23	37	32	3

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions ranged from mostly fair to poor with conditions rated as 5 percent excellent, 17 percent good, 39 percent fair, 30 percent poor, and 9 percent very poor. The rains this past week greatly improves the outlook for spring pasture. Spring green up should occur very rapidly.

Livestock: Livestock ranged from mostly good to fair condition. Livestock condition was rated as 11 percent excellent, 53 percent good, 28 percent fair, 6 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor. The milder weather has helped livestock conditions. The death loss of cattle has continued to be light, also due to the mild winter weather. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged 84.89 per cwt. The price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged 77.52 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 8, 2004

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	2	6	28	53	11
Pasture & Range	9	30	39	17	5

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OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week ending March 8, 2004

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum				
Jointing	10	N/A	11	14	Seedbed Prepared	6	N/A	2	6
Oats -					Soybeans				
Planted	63	N/A	44	71	Seedbed Prepared	10	N/A	4	12
Corn -					Peanuts				
Seedbed Prepared	12	N/A	14	17	Seedbed Prepared	13	N/A	6	10

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 2004 - Temperatures ranged from 19 degrees at Boise City on Tuesday, March 2, to 75 degrees at Idabel on Wednesday, March 3. Precipitation averaged 1.30 in. South Central district to 3.74 in. Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 38 degrees at Seiling on Tuesday, March 2, to 61 degrees at Idabel on Thursday, March 4.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending March 8, 2004

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	September 1, 2003 to March 8, 2004		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	54	31	40	1.81	6.42	- 0.24	96
West Central	54	36	45	3.60	11.06	+0.04	100
Southwest	58	39	48	2.99	10.36	- 2.02	84
North Central	53	35	44	3.33	12.70	+0.77	106
Central	59	39	49	3.11	14.76	- 1.79	89
South Central	67	N/A	55	1.30	14.89	- 4.24	78
Northeast	59	40	49	3.74	18.78	+0.09	100
East Central	63	43	53	2.16	17.45	- 4.54	79
Southeast	69	44	57	1.31	20.16	- 5.47	79