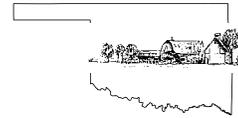




OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER

April 4, 2005



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P.O. Box 528804
Oklahoma City, OK 73152
Phone (405) 522-6190
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A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Soaking Rain Needed Across the State

This was the third week that very little precipitation was reported across the State. The need for rain was becoming more apparent in the wheat crop. The warm dry winds last week dried out some wheat and there was also an increase in insect activities. Topsoil moisture was affected by last week's lack of soaking rains with a 10 point increase in topsoil reported as short. Temperatures averaged in the high 50's throughout the state. There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	5	28	64	3
Last Week	3	18	72	7
Last Year	4	29	65	2

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	4	11	82	3
Last Week	3	8	82	7
Last Year	6	32	61	1

Small Grains: Wheat conditions showed a slight decrease, with only 14 percent of the crop reported to be in excellent shape compared to the 19 percent recorded last week. Wheat jointing reached 73 percent which was above the five year average of 62 percent, but 6 points below last year at 79.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 3, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	1	3	26	56	14
Last Week	1	3	24	53	19
Last Year	3	9	30	48	10
Rye					
This Week	1	4	22	64	9
Oats					
This Week	1	4	43	50	2

Row Crops: Seedbed preparation continued at a relatively slow pace throughout the state. More precipitation is needed to allow producers to continue their spring planting preparations. Cotton and soybeans were the only row crops running slightly behind both last year and the five-year average. Twenty-two percent of the State's corn acreage was planted. Corn planted ranged from none planted in the Panhandle to the winding down stages in the East Central, South Central, and Southeast districts.

Pasture and Range: Warm temperatures, high winds and little precipitation has increased concern for pastures around the State. The entire state of Oklahoma was placed under a red flag fire alert which means the fire danger is very high for all counties. The warmer temperatures have been beneficial to many grasses across the state but the bermuda growth remained slow. Hay supplies remained mostly average.

Livestock: Spring calving was underway and livestock conditions were mostly good to excellent last week. Windy days caused small grain fields to become dry on top, especially fields being grazed out. The death loss of cattle continues to be light. Livestock insect activities increased slightly, but were still mostly light by week's end. Feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$116.12 per cwt and feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$107.98 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 3, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	20	64	12
Pasture & Range	1	11	35	47	6

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending April 3, 2005

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat - Jointing	73	57	79	62	Sorghum - Seedbed Prepared	24	23	22	24
Oats - Planted	96	95	98	93	Soybeans - Seedbed Prepared	29	27	35	34
Jointing	18	9	31	25	Peanuts - Seedbed Prepared	35	24	31	32
Rye - Jointing	85	83	89	N/A	Cotton - Seedbed Prepared	51	49	57	52
Corn - Seedbed Prepared	67	52	63	58					
Planted	22	19	21	16					

Weather for Week Ending April 3, 2005 - Temperatures ranged from 25 degrees at Chickasha on Monday, March 28th to 86 degrees at Slapout on Sunday, April 3rd. Precipitation averaged 0.02 inches in Southwest district to .77 inches in East Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 42 degrees at Kenton on Friday, April 1st, to 65 degrees at Vanoss on Wednesday, March 30th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending April 3, 2005

Districts	Temperature			This Week	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Average		March 1, 2005 to April 3, 2005		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	69	36	52	0.26	0.82	-1.00	45
West Central	72	42	57	0.08	0.88	-1.78	33
Southwest	73	41	57	0.02	0.45	-2.08	18
North Central	72	42	57	0.08	0.84	-2.13	28
Central	72	43	58	0.26	0.90	-2.69	25
South Central	73	44	59	0.10	0.78	-3.14	20
Northeast	71	42	57	0.49	1.79	-2.28	44
East Central	72	44	58	0.77	2.34	-2.18	52
Southeast	73	43	59	0.44	3.04	-1.89	62

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Oklahoma City OK 73152
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