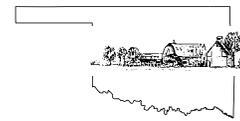




# OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER

May 2, 2005



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

## Record Dry Season Across the State

The South Central district was experiencing the driest March 1 to May 1 season since 1921. Statewide this time frame was the third driest since 1921. Soil moisture continued to decline with only 29 percent of topsoil moisture rated as adequate. Subsoil moisture was 12 percent very short, 36 percent short and 52 percent adequate. Farmers had 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	30	41	29	0
Last Week	23	41	35	1
Last Year	3	15	72	10

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	12	36	52	0
Last Week	9	30	59	2
Last Year	8	21	65	6

**Small Grains:** The amount of wheat in the good to excellent category has fallen 12 points in the last two weeks as the wheat crop continues to struggle under the current dry conditions. With 80 percent of the wheat crop headed, some respondents already expressed concerns of wheat heads not filling, resulting in declining yields and even field abandonment. Several producers baled their wheat for hay last week. Sixteen percent of the wheat was in the soft dough stage compared to 10 percent normally. Rye condition was rated mostly good to fair. Rye headed, at 93 percent, is 3 points below this time last year. Oats were also rated in mostly good to fair condition. Oat jointing jumped 10 points to 75 percent. Oats headed, at 24 percent, is 12 points behind last year and 10 points behind the five year average.

### SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 1, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	3	13	36	40	8
Last Week	2	8	34	45	11
Last Year	4	9	28	48	11
Rye					
This Week	4	12	37	44	3
Oats					
This Week	5	22	44	28	1

**Row Crops:** Seedbed preparations were running ahead of the five-year average for all row crops except soybeans and cotton. Corn planting and emergence, at 62 and 55 percent, respectively, fell slightly behind the five-year averages. Sorghum planted was normal for this time of year at 12 percent. Soybeans planted, at 19 percent, was 5 points below the five-year average. Peanuts planted was 2 points above last year and 4 points above the five-year average at 16 percent. Cotton, with only 1 percent planted, was below both last year and the five-year average.

**Hay:** Harvesting of alfalfa and other hay continued. The first cutting of alfalfa was at 45 percent, 9 points above the five-year average. Twenty-one percent of the first cutting of other hay was completed. The condition of alfalfa and other hay was mostly good to fair.

### HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 1, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	11	33	50	5
Other Hay	2	15	39	40	4

**Pasture and Range:** Pasture and range conditions shifted downward slightly from last week, but were still rated as mostly good to fair. Pastures were still in need of rain and some warmer temperatures as grasses were developing slower than normal.

**Livestock:** Livestock continued to be in good to excellent condition. Death loss of cattle was rated as mostly light. Livestock marketings were rated as average. Feeder steers under 800 pounds averaged \$116.02 per cwt and feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$107.82 per cwt.

### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 1, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	3	23	64	10
Pasture & Range	3	14	37	39	7

**OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS**

Week Ending May 1, 2005

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -	63	52	70	68
Jointing	98	96	98	97	Seedbed Prepared	19	9	18	24
Headed	80	57	88	74	Planted				
Soft Dough	16	N/A	11	10	Peanuts -	85	79	85	79
Oats -					Seedbed Prepared	16	6	14	12
Jointing	75	65	82	80	Planted				
Headed	24	N/A	36	34	Cotton -				
Rye -					Seedbed Prepared	81	76	85	86
Jointing	99	97	95	N/A	Planted	1	N/A	7	8
Headed	93	N/A	96	N/A	Alfalfa -				
Soft Dough	23	N/A	22	N/A	1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	45	23	40	36
Corn -					Other Hay -				
Seedbed Prepared	98	96	98	93	1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	21	11	19	14
Planted	62	47	53	67	Watermelons				
Emerged	35	25	37	39	Planted	33	N/A	33	38
Sorghum -									
Seedbed Prepared	55	53	45	52					
Planted	12	5	12	12					

**Weather for Week Ending May 1, 2005** - Temperatures ranged from 30 degrees at Medford on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and at Antlers on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, to 89 degrees at Bee on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation averaged 0.02 inches in West Central district to 0.68 inches in Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 48 degrees at Goodwell on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, to 74 degrees at Waurika on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA**

Week Ending May 1, 2005

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2005 to May 1, 2005		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
Degrees			Inches				
Panhandle	57	36	46	0.51	2.29	-1.30	64
West Central	65	40	53	0.02	1.69	-3.47	33
Southwest	71	44	58	0.05	1.20	-3.90	23
North Central	61	39	51	0.27	1.72	-4.07	30
Central	67	42	55	0.10	1.32	-5.63	19
South Central	72	45	59	0.22	1.48	-6.01	20
Northeast	63	42	53	0.46	3.48	-4.37	44
East Central	67	44	55	0.54	4.42	-4.19	51
Southeast	71	45	59	0.68	5.05	-4.13	55

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OKLAHOMA CROP WEATHER SUMMARY (USPS 399-550)