

Oklahoma Crop Weather



USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
Oklahoma Field Office

cooperating with Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

P.O. Box 528804 Oklahoma City, OK 73152

405-522-6190 • 1-888-525-9226 • FAX 405-528-2296 • nass-ok@nass.usda.gov

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Week Shows Wide Range of Weather

Oklahoma experienced a mixed bag of weather for the week ending March 26th. Slow soaking rains lingered from the previous weekend into the early part of the week, followed by snow and colder temperatures during mid-week. The week was topped off with gusty winds and warm temperatures. Wheat and pasture land began to show marked improvement; however, additional rainfall is still needed for plant development. Governor Henry cancelled the Red Flag Fire Alert for all counties in Oklahoma on March 20th. While the 5-month drought showed initial signs of ending, additional rain will be needed to get everything back to normal. Adequate topsoil moisture supplies climbed from 24 percent last week to 58 percent this week. Subsoil moisture advanced from 6 to 13 percent adequate. Agricultural producers experienced 3.2 days suitable for field work during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	16	26	58	0
Last Week	58	16	24	2
Last Year	3	18	72	7

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	43	44	13	0
Last Week	64	30	6	0
Last Year	3	8	82	7

Small Grains Wheat and rye conditions improved only slightly during the week. Mid-week snow and cold temperatures may have damaged wheat that was in the early boot stage of development. Wheat jointing advanced to 43 percent which was only slightly behind the 5-year average of 45 percent. Wheat jointing ranged from 12 percent in the Panhandle to 78 percent in the Northeast district. Rain prevented any fertilizer applications or weed spraying. Many wheat fields throughout the State were short on nitrogen and topdressing is needed.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 26, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat -					
This Week	31	34	29	6	0
Last Week	37	33	24	6	0
Last Year	1	3	24	53	19
Rye -					
This Week	25	32	38	5	0
Oats -					
This Week	59	25	15	1	0

Row Crops: Most seedbed preparation continued to lag behind normal. Corn planting was 6 percent complete, mostly in eastern Oklahoma. Only a few soybean fields were planted in the Southwest district. Planting progress for these crops was very limited because ground temperatures were too cold for good seed germination.

Spring Fruits: Peaches, apricots, and strawberries suffered undetermined freeze damage with the mid-week cold snap. Thursday's temperature dipped into the low 20's in major fruit producing areas of eastern Oklahoma.

Pasture and Range: Slight improvement was made to the State's cool season grasses. Forage supplies were still rated mostly short with the largest deficiencies reported across the southern third of Oklahoma. With forage at a premium, supplemental feeding was active throughout the State.

Livestock: Cattle marketing was mostly average but some heavy trading was reported in the East Central and South Central districts. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged a little more than \$102 per cwt. Feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged nearly \$97.50 per cwt. Cold weather kept parasite activity down but cattle were still plagued with moderately heavy insect activity in areas of southern Oklahoma. Cattlemen enjoyed the rainfall for pasture green up but more runoff moisture is needed to replenish low stock ponds. Calving and lambing were still active.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 26, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	15	44	30	11	0
Pasture & Range	38	29	28	5	0

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending March 26, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	43	28	55	45	Seedbed Prepared	18	11	23	19
Rye -					Soybeans				
Jointing	30	20	80	31	Seedbed Prepared	20	14	26	22
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Planted	77	75	95	89	Seedbed Prepared	12	6	22	22
Corn -					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	36	28	51	44	Seedbed Prepared	33	29	47	43
Planted	6	N/A	17	11					

Weather for Week Ending March 26, 2006: Temperatures ranged from 12 degrees at Boise City on Tuesday, March 21st, to 82 degrees at Hooker on Sunday, March 26th. Precipitation averaged 0.08 inches in the South Central district to 0.88 inches in the North Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 35 degrees at Kenton on Thursday, March 23rd, to 55 degrees at Sulphur on Sunday, March 26th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending March 26, 2006

Districts	Temperature			This Week	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Average		March 1, 2006 to March 26, 2006		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
<i>Degrees</i>				<i>Inches</i>			
Panhandle	49	26	36	0.80	1.03	-0.34	75
West Central	52	30	40	0.74	1.85	-0.17	92
Southwest	55	32	43	0.26	1.96	0.06	103
North Central	49	30	39	0.88	1.91	-0.34	85
Central	52	32	42	0.33	2.15	-0.56	79
South Central	55	34	44	0.08	3.96	0.99	133
Northeast	50	32	40	0.35	2.21	-0.87	72
East Central	51	33	42	0.25	3.35	-0.08	98
Southeast	53	33	43	0.12	6.15	2.39	164

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 OKLAHOMA STATISTICAL OFFICE
 PO BOX 528804
 OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73152