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TX-CW2206

Texas Crop Weather

Released May 30, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of May 22 - 28, 2006.

Agricultural Summary: Torrential downpours pounded southeast Texas and coastal areas. Accumulations of 6 inches of rain were common in eastern counties of the Upper Coast. One location in the region was swamped with up to 16 inches of rainfall. Heavy rain totaling 2 to 5 inches occurred across the western areas of Upper Coast. Scattered thunderstorms blew through areas of South Texas, Coastal Bend and the Trans Pecos. Rain gauges recorded a trace to 3 inches of rain. Widely scattered showers were reported on the Panhandle, South Plains, and Edward Plateau. Precipitation amounts ranged from a trace to almost 2 inches. Triple-digit heat was recorded in many locations. For most of the state that missed the rain, high temperatures dried out the soil and wilted summer crops in the afternoon sun. Planting moved forward on the Panhandle and South Plains. Small grain harvest progressed northward. Pasture growth was slowed in drier areas. Insurance agents continued to disaster crops in the Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend and parts of the Upper Coast due to the devastating drought. Some producers in eastern areas were beginning their second hay cutting while South Texas growers were only cutting their first hay crop on irrigated land.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat grain harvest was moving quickly across North Central Texas and was beginning on the South Plains. Crop maturation on the Panhandle ranged from turning color to near fully mature. Some producers indicated that they would keep the grain for seed in preparation for the expected shortage next planting season. Wheat grain harvest continued on the Blacklands and was nearly complete in southern locations of the region. The crop was cut for hay in all areas as growers attempt to replenish the hay supply. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

Cotton: Planting continued at a rapid pace on the Panhandle and South Plains. Fields in the driest areas will need a rain for germination. Many producers might have to dry seed to beat insurance deadlines. Early planted fields that have emerged needed increased moisture for further growth. Blackland cotton was in decent shape but will also require more rain. Cotton was blooming on the Coastal Bend. Many drought stricken fields in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend have been disastered out. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to good.

Corn: Fields on the Panhandle progressed well under heavy irrigation. Corn in North Central Texas was tasseling. Blackland corn was beginning to show drought stress as fields wilted in the hot afternoon sun. Fields in southern regions were setting ears. South Texas dryland corn was stunted badly due to ongoing drought. It remains to be seen if the increased moisture along the Upper Coast could still be beneficial to drought stricken fields. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

Sorghum: Planting continued on the Panhandle and the South Plains. The crop began to head on the Blacklands. A large percentage of dryland fields in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend were disastered out. In southern regions, irrigation was heavy where possible. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated very poor to fair.

Peanuts: Planting was in full swing in South Texas. Irrigation was heavy in northern regions. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly fair to good.

Rice: Increased rainfall in parts of the Upper Coast should be beneficial to rice growers. There were concerns with potential Mexican Rice Borer problems. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Planting continued on the Panhandle. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, watermelon harvest continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers harvested cabbage, potatoes, and onions. Watermelons progressed under irrigation.

In **Central Texas**, watermelons were showing heavy fruit set, but will need increased moisture soon.

On the **Trans Pecos**, watermelons and cantaloupes progressed.

On the **Panhandle**, pumpkins planting was underway.

Pecans: Pecan nut casebearer problems were reported in some locations. Producers sprayed accordingly. Most orchards were in need of increased moisture for nut set.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture conditions were generally holding steady. In drier regions, intense daytime heat drew out moisture from the soil. Growth improved slightly in areas that received rain. Producers continued to cut hay. Some growers were on their second cutting while others did not receive enough rain to cut their first. Cattle were in fairly decent shape. The herd in South Texas continued to dwindle as the liquidation continued. Prickly pear was used as a last resort supplement in many locations.

Crop Progress Table – May 28, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	99	98	99
	Emerged	93	89	93
	Silked (Tasseled)	34	20	28
Cotton	Planted	73	66	67
	Squaring	9	11	11
Peanuts	Planted	87	84	80
Rice	Planted	100	100	100
	Emerged	99	100	99
Sorghum	Planted	77	59	65
	Headed	25	26	24
Soybeans	Planted	95	80	85
	Emerged	91	--	--
Sunflowers	Planted	62	38	58
Winter Wheat	Headed	98	98	98
	Harvested (Grain)	16	7	14
Oats	Headed	95	96	95
	Harvested (Grain)	36	21	--

Crop Condition Table – May 28, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	4	34	39	12	11	62	75
Cotton	7	20	45	19	9	58	74
Peanuts	12	17	60	10	1	67	87
Rice	2	37	58	3	0	71	83
Sorghum	2	25	29	12	32	47	63
Soybeans	8	30	38	18	6	63	70
Wheat	0	3	15	29	53	22	66
Oats	0	9	25	28	38	32	61
Range & Pasture	1	12	33	27	27	--	--

^{1/} The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where
I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Top Soil Moisture by District – May 28, 2006 *

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
- Percent of Acreage -															
Very Short	77	57	44	26	6	25	5	13	57	32	52	85	26	77	80
Short	19	33	47	44	61	45	62	57	40	47	37	11	24	17	20
Adequate	4	10	9	30	33	30	33	30	3	21	11	4	36	6	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S.
 Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (May 22 - 28) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 28) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.09	0.89	2.87	18.87	73
Low Rolling Plains	0.22	2.21	5.22	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.04	2.18	11.43	34.00	95
East Texas	0.13	1.71	15.19	45.69	89
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.09	1.15	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.31	1.70	5.97	24.01	81
South Central Texas	0.49	1.48	5.72	34.48	53
Upper Coast	1.58	3.23	9.63	47.63	57
South Texas	0.47	1.72	2.70	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.10	1.08	1.85	25.34	18

^{1/} Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

