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Texas Crop Weather

Released October 30, 2006

For the week of October 23 - 29, 2006

Agricultural Summary: It was another rainy week for the Upper Coast and South East, as rainfall exceeded 4 inches in some areas, hindering field work. Over 2 inches of rain fell in parts of the North East and South Central Texas. Amounts decreased to the west and south, with 0.25 to 1 inches of rainfall recorded in the Blacklands, eastern Edwards Plateau, South, Lower Valley, Coastal Bend, and southern Trans-Pecos. A trace to 0.25 inches were received in the Cross Timbers and Low Plains. The area from the western Edwards Plateau through the Panhandle was almost entirely dry. The High Plains reported a light freeze. High winds in the Plains, with gusts up to 60 mph, slowed cotton harvest somewhat, but milder daytime temperatures helped crops mature. Hay baling was winding down in the Plains, where supplies were increased by recent rains.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Producers continued to plant winter wheat in the Plains, where the crop generally looked very good. Producers in the Cross Timbers prepared fields and planted small grains; recent rainfall and lack of insect pressure got these crops off to a good start. Rains delayed wheat planting in the North East. Small grains looked "great" in the Edwards Plateau because of recent rainfall. The condition of winter wheat and of oats was mostly good to fair statewide.

Cotton: Harvest was in full swing in the Plains, although high winds slowed activity for a couple days. Producers destroyed disaster cotton in the Northern Low Plains. Harvest resumed in the Trans-Pecos following rain earlier in the week. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly fair to poor.

Corn: Most producers in the Northern High Plains were wrapping up harvest for silage.

Sorghum: Growers began to harvest in the Northern High Plains, with seed sorghum coming out first while many producers waited for a freeze before starting to harvest grain sorghum.

Peanuts: Dry weather allowed producers to dig at a rapid pace in the Southern High Plains, but dew and recent rains hampered threshing. Harvest continued in South Texas, where farmers also baled peanut hay. Peanut condition statewide was mostly good to fair.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Watermelon harvest was complete in the Southern High Plains, where yields and quality were mixed due to variable weather during the growing season. Fall seeded onions in the Trans-Pecos that just emerged faced a potential big loss of stand due to rains during the first irrigation. Producers in the San Antonio-Winter Garden prepared fields, planted fall vegetables, and harvested cabbage, cucumbers, and green beans.

Pecans: Pecans were ready for harvest in the Trans-Pecos, but there was little activity as producers waited for the first freeze. Producers harvested early varieties in the Edwards Plateau. Harvest was winding down in South Central areas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Producers began to fence off early planted winter wheat for grazing in the Northern High Plains. Ranchers moved a lot of cattle into the High Plains, where the wheat pasture had good emergence and stand. Pastures were greening up in the Southern Plains as fall and winter grasses emerged to replace native grasses. Range and pastures were in excellent condition in the Northern Low Plains with little if any supplemental feeding, and stock tanks were fuller because of recent rains. Producers were getting their last cutting of Bermuda grass in the Cross Timbers, but hay was in short supply and ranchers continued to supplement livestock. The Cross Timbers and Blacklands needed runoff rain to replenish stock tanks. Pastures improved in the Blacklands, but some supplemental feeding was still necessary. Much needed rain in the North East improved pastures and slowed liquidation of herds, but hay supplies continued to be low and producers planted winter pasture. Rain helped seedling winter pastures in the South East and provided runoff to stock ponds. Pastures also improved in the Trans-Pecos because of recent rain, as ranchers gathered cattle and shipped calves. Fall calving was in full swing in South Central areas, where producers planted winter pasture. Ranchers in South Texas were able to reduce supplemental feeding in areas that have received rain, and cattle body condition was generally fair to good.

Crop Progress Table – October 29, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Harvested	98	95	96
Cotton	Bolls Opening	89	92	92
	Harvested	30	33	38
Peanuts	Harvested	50	49	44
Sorghum	Mature	87	91	90
	Harvested	75	72	75
Soybeans	Harvested	93	84	90
Sunflowers	Harvested	80	70	84
Winter Wheat	Planted	84	83	85
	Emerged	68	59	67
Oats	Planted	81	73	81
	Emerged	65	37	--

Crop Condition Table – October 29, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Cotton	7	21	30	22	20	51	76
Wheat	14	40	37	7	2	75	62
Oats	3	41	46	8	2	70	32
Range & Pasture	3	12	31	29	25	--	--

^{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 – October 29, 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	15	5	1	9	3	18	21	2	14	21	18	0	0	6	37
Short	21	25	19	29	38	35	42	10	32	32	36	8	0	35	20
Adequate	63	59	70	61	58	47	35	55	54	46	44	67	26	58	43
Surplus	1	11	10	1	1	0	2	33	0	1	2	25	74	1	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 (Oct 23 - 29) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 29) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Oct 29) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.10	1.92	14.33	18.87	108
Low Rolling Plains	0.07	4.38	16.94	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.53	3.55	21.81	34.00	86
East Texas	2.25	8.15	33.53	45.69	72
Trans Pecos	0.08	1.27	8.28	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.31	1.93	14.28	24.01	64
South Central Texas	0.32	2.60	17.18	34.48	60
Upper Coast	2.10	11.27	47.67	47.63	126
South Texas	0.05	0.98	11.05	23.49	84
Lower Valley	0.28	2.53	15.91	25.34	102

^{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

