



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture
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Issue: TX-CW0907 **Revised**
Released: February 27, 2007
For the week of: February 19 - 25, 2007

Agricultural Summary: Conditions were mostly mild and dry across Western and Central Texas throughout the week. The Panhandle, Cross Timbers, South Texas, and the Eastern section of the state received less than 0.25 inches, with isolated areas receiving up to 1.0 inch of rainfall. There were numerous reports of high winds across the state. Some producers even experienced sustained winds as high as 40 mph and gusts up to 70 mph. Topsoil moisture was greatly reduced from these wind conditions. Top dressing of wheat and winter pastures was common during the week in anticipation of rain by late week. Across the state, producers continued to feed hay where available although supplies remained low. Increased nitrogen prices have many producers concerned about the cost of hay this spring and summer. Some producers reported improvement in range and pastures due to warmer temperatures, but supplemental feeding still continued.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: In the Northern High Plains, moisture levels remained good for wheat despite the wind conditions. Wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: High winds forced some producers in the Southern High Plains to replant cotton fields.

Corn: Planting of corn will begin in full force this week in the Blacklands and South Central Texas, as some producers have already started.

Sorghum: Planting of sorghum was underway along the Coastal Bend.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Some producers have started planting of onions and potatoes in North East Texas. Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. Cabbage, spinach, and broccoli harvest continued in South Texas. Many potato and carrot fields in South Texas were being irrigated due to minimal rainfall.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state as producers attempted to maintain body condition in their livestock herds. Lice infestation was still a problem in the Northern High Plains. In the Cross Timbers and North East Texas, preparations began for planting coastal and other hybrid Bermuda grasses. Hard rains are still needed in both the Cross Timbers and Blacklands in order to fill stock tanks. Warmer temperatures contributed to pasture growth in the Blacklands and North East Texas. In South Texas, livestock producers reported improvement on native range and pastures and increased growth of cool season forages. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Condition Table – February 25, 2007

| Crop | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Index ^{1/} | |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|
| | Percent | | | | | 2007 | 2006 |
| Wheat | 13 | 33 | 33 | 15 | 6 | 68 | -- |
| Oats | 5 | 23 | 40 | 20 | 12 | 56 | -- |
| Range & Pasture | 3 | 15 | 34 | 28 | 20 | -- | -- |

^{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 – February 25, 2007 *

| 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 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 24 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Short | 14 | 33 | 38 | 39 | 35 | 25 | 8 | 13 | 38 | 51 | 33 | 9 | 0 | 48 | 37 |
| Adequate | 70 | 54 | 36 | 55 | 57 | 61 | 76 | 68 | 40 | 25 | 59 | 71 | 61 | 46 | 53 |
| Surplus | 16 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 20 | 39 | 1 | 0 |

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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/ 2/}

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous Week (Feb 19 - 25) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 25) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 25) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous Three Months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal |
|---|--|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains | 0.01 | 0.16 | 0.80 | 18.87 | 134 |
| Low Rolling Plains | 0.00 | 0.15 | 1.02 | 23.78 | 66 |
| North Central Texas | 0.08 | 0.43 | 3.25 | 34.00 | 108 |
| East Texas | 0.25 | 1.19 | 7.56 | 45.69 | 120 |
| Trans Pecos | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.93 | 12.96 | 97 |
| Edwards Plateau | 0.04 | 0.19 | 2.09 | 24.01 | 86 |
| South Central Texas | 0.03 | 0.20 | 4.70 | 34.48 | 100 |
| Upper Coast | 0.13 | 0.91 | 6.93 | 47.63 | 99 |
| South Texas | 0.03 | 0.03 | 3.21 | 23.49 | 154 |
| Lower Valley | 0.00 | 0.51 | 2.25 | 25.34 | 117 |

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

^{2/} High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

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

