



Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office

Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

P.O. Box 528804 · Oklahoma City, OK 73152-8804

(405) 522-6190 · FAX (405) 528-2296 · www.nass.usda.gov/ok

A combined contribution with Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Farm Service Agency and Oklahoma Mesonet

Volume 34, Number 7

Issued March 28, 2011

Drought Worsens Small Grain Conditions

Last week proved to be another dry week for Oklahoma. All nine districts experienced drought-like conditions and field crops are showing signs of stress from lack of precipitation. Some wheat producers have considered abandoning their crops in exchange for another crop and cattle producers have considered letting their cattle graze out the wheat. Unfortunately, very little rainfall was received last week with the Northeast district receiving the most rainfall, a meager 0.24 of an inch of precipitation. Additionally, as a result of the dry weather, the chance of wildfires remained high across the state. Portions of the week brought wind and temperatures averaging in the mid-fifties. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions continued to decline as both are rated 85 percent short to very short. There were 6.3 days suitable for field work.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, March 27, 2011

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	54	47	1	52	51	4
Short	31	34	7	33	33	12
Adequate	14	18	71	14	16	68
Surplus	1	1	21	1	0	16

Small Grains: Small grain crops are showing signs of drought stress due to lack of precipitation and were rated mostly in the fair to poor range. **Wheat** jointing was 58 percent complete by week's end, an 18 point increase from the week prior, and six points ahead of normal. **Rye** jointing increased by 26 points to reach 74 percent complete by Sunday. **Oats** planted reached 86 percent complete and oats jointing more than doubled to reach 16 percent complete by week's end. **Canola** blooming reached 20 percent complete by Sunday.

Row Crops: Producers continued with seedbed preparations last week, however, rainfall is needed to improve field conditions for planting. **Corn** seedbeds prepared reached 66 percent complete by Sunday, 13 points ahead of the five-year average. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation was 19 points ahead of normal at 40 percent complete. **Soybean** seedbed preparation was 26 percent complete, 13 points ahead of the previous week, and only one point ahead of the five-year average. **Peanut** seedbeds prepared reached 40 percent complete by week's end, 18 points ahead of the previous week. **Cotton** seedbed preparation was 33 percent complete by Sunday, seven points behind normal.

Pasture and Range: Both pasture and range are beginning to suffer as a result of the state's drought-like conditions. Ponds and streams are in critical need of rainfall in order to replenish. Conditions continued to be rated mostly in the fair to poor range, with 13 percent rated very poor.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$139 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$125 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Low pond levels are a concern for livestock producers as the drought continues.

Conditions by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 27, 2011

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grains -					
Wheat	11	35	33	17	4
Rye	8	26	45	18	3
Oats	19	44	28	7	2
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	2	11	44	38	5
Pasture and Range	13	33	42	11	1

Crop Progress by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 27, 2011

Crop and Event	Week Ending			5 Year Average	Crop and Event	Week Ending			5 Year Average
	March 27, 2011	March 20, 2011	March 28, 2010			March 27, 2011	March 20, 2011	March 28, 2010	
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	58	40	46	52	Seedbed Prepared	40	11	14	21
Rye -					Soybeans -				
Jointing	74	48	54	61	Seedbed Prepared	26	13	11	25
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Planted	86	83	93	92	Seedbed Prepared	40	22	42	33
Jointing	16	7	N/A	N/A	Cotton -				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared				
Seedbed Prepared	66	45	40	53		33	23	30	40

Weather for Week Ending March 27, 2011: Temperatures ranged from 19 degrees at Kenton on Thursday, March 24th, to 92 degrees at Walters on Tuesday, March 22nd. Precipitation ranged from none in the West Central, Central and Southwest districts to 0.24 of an inch in the Northeast district. Soil temperature averages ranged from 43 degrees at Vinita on Sunday, March 27th, to 70 degrees at Hugo on Wednesday, March 23rd, and Burneyville on Friday, March 25th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending Sunday, March 27, 2011

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2011 to March 27, 2011		
					Total	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	64	34	50	0.01	0.27	-1.15	19
West Central	65	42	53	0.00	0.52	-1.57	25
Southwest	69	45	57	0.00	0.00	-1.97	0
North Central	62	40	51	0.01	0.96	-1.37	41
Central	66	46	56	0.00	0.32	-2.51	11
South Central	71	50	61	0.01	0.12	-2.97	4
Northeast	62	45	53	0.24	1.65	-1.54	52
East Central	64	48	56	0.05	0.80	-2.76	23
Southeast	71	50	60	0.03	0.72	-3.18	19