



# Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office

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## Drought Continues Despite Blizzard

February began with a blizzard that paralyzed much of the state, bringing upwards of 20 inches of snow to parts of northeast Oklahoma. The second week of February brought another round of heavy snow as well as extreme negative temperatures that affected both crops and livestock. A new record low temperature for Oklahoma was recorded in Nowata at -31 degrees on February 10th. True to Oklahoma weather, a warm up occurred the next week with temperatures reaching the 80s. Despite the heavy snowfall, the precipitation levels across the state are still well below normal, with most of the state experiencing drought conditions. Burn bans are in effect for much of southwestern and central Oklahoma. The Northeast district received the most moisture with 2.41 inches for the month. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions continued to be rated mostly short to very short for the past month with 78 percent of topsoil and 81 percent of subsoil rated short to very short.

### Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Month Ending February 28, 2011

Moisture Rating	Topsoil	Subsoil
Very Short	43	47
Short	35	34
Adequate	21	18
Surplus	1	1

**Small Grains:** Conditions for small grains declined from the month before due to drought conditions and extreme cold temperatures. Wheat, rye and oats were rated mostly in the fair to poor range with 42 percent of wheat, 36 percent of rye and 56 percent of oats rated poor to very poor. There is some concern about freeze damage in small grains, but the extent is not yet known. **Wheat** grazed was at 35 percent, 11 points behind the previous year. **Rye** grazed was at 62 percent, 15 points behind last year. **Oats** grazed was at 14 percent, nine points behind a year ago.

**Pasture and Range:** Pasture and range conditions were rated mostly in the fair to poor range, with 44 percent rated poor to very poor.

**Livestock:** Conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range with 11 percent rated poor to very poor. The drought greatly affected the available grazing and forage as well as pond levels and has caused some stocker operations to sell cattle early. The blizzard conditions and extreme cold that persisted resulted in livestock losses for some operators.

**Conditions by Percent**  
Month Ending February 28, 2011

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>Small Grains -</b>					
Winter Wheat	8	34	39	17	2
Rye	8	28	46	16	2
Oats	5	51	33	10	1
<b>Livestock, Pasture and Range -</b>					
Livestock	1	10	42	42	5
Pasture and Range	15	29	43	12	1

**Crop Progress by Percent**  
Month Ending February 28, 2011

Crop and Event	2011	2010	5 Year Average
<b>Wheat -</b>			
Grazed	35	46	34
<b>Rye -</b>			
Grazed	62	77	63
<b>Oats -</b>			
Grazed	14	23	13

**Weather for Month Ending February 27, 2011:** Temperatures ranged from -31 degrees at Nowata on Thursday, February 10th, to 90 degrees at Walters on Sunday, February 27th. Precipitation ranged from 0.10 of an inch in the Panhandle district to 2.41 inches in the Northeast district. Soil temperature averages ranged from 26 degrees at Chickasha and at Boise City on Thursday, February 3rd, to 63 degrees at Waurika on Sunday, February 20th.

**Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data**  
Month Ending February 27, 2011

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	Current Month Feb 1 – Feb 27	September 1, 2010 to February 27, 2011		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	51	18	34	0.10	3.96	-2.31	63
West Central	54	24	38	0.17	6.74	-3.69	65
Southwest	56	27	41	0.57	8.26	-3.56	70
North Central	50	21	35	0.44	6.40	-4.88	57
Central	53	28	40	1.44	9.17	-6.59	58
South Central	56	32	43	1.57	13.24	-5.01	73
Northeast	48	25	37	2.41	12.17	-5.62	68
East Central	51	30	41	2.20	16.57	-4.42	79
Southeast	55	32	43	2.33	15.10	-9.41	62