



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 6

Issued March 21, 2011

Drought Conditions Intensify

The need for rain continues to be the number one concern of producers across the state. According to the March 15th U.S. Drought Monitor, over 80 percent of the state was experiencing moderate or severe drought conditions with a portion of southwest Oklahoma in an extreme drought. Little rain fell over the past week and the Southwest and South Central districts received no rainfall. Small grains and grasses are suffering due to the drought and it is affecting plans for spring planting. Most central and southwestern counties are still under burn bans. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions continued to worsen from the previous week with 81 percent of topsoil and 84 percent of subsoil rated short to very short. There were 6.3 days suitable for field work.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, March 20, 2011

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	47	38	2	51	47	3
Short	34	34	4	33	34	13
Adequate	18	27	71	16	19	65
Surplus	1	1	23	0	0	19

Small Grains: Small grain crops were rated mostly in the fair to poor range. Some producers are having fields appraised for insurance or considering grazing out the remaining wheat. **Wheat** jointing was 40 percent complete by week's end, a 15 point increase from the week prior. **Rye** jointing reached 48 percent complete by Sunday. **Oats** planted increased by 10 points to 83 percent complete and oats jointing reached 7 percent complete by week's end.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparations continued though rain is needed to ensure timely planting. **Corn** seedbeds prepared reached 45 percent complete by Sunday, even with the five-year average. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation was six points behind normal at 11 percent complete. **Soybean** seedbed preparation was 13 percent complete, ahead of the previous year but seven points behind normal. **Peanut** seedbeds prepared reached 22 percent complete by week's end, well behind the previous year. **Cotton** seedbed preparation was 23 percent complete, nine points behind normal.

Pasture and Range: Conditions were rated mostly in the fair to poor range, with 15 percent rated very poor. Some cattle producers are still haying or feeding supplements because of the lack of sufficient grasses.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$135 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$124 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 20, 2011

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grains -					
Wheat	12	31	33	21	3
Rye	11	22	47	17	3
Oats	10	38	38	13	1
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	2	12	41	39	6
Pasture and Range	15	32	41	12	0

Crop Progress by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 20, 2011

Crop and Event	Week Ending			5 Year Average	Crop and Event	Week Ending			5 Year Average
	March 20, 2011	March 13, 2011	March 21, 2010			March 20, 2011	March 13, 2011	March 21, 2010	
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	40	25	34	35	Seedbed Prepared	11	7	12	17
Rye -					Soybeans -				
Jointing	48	13	50	47	Seedbed Prepared	13	7	6	20
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Planted	83	73	83	86	Seedbed Prepared	22	6	39	27
Jointing	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cotton -				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	23	14	28	32
Seedbed Prepared	45	29	31	45					

Weather for Week Ending March 20, 2011: Temperatures ranged from 15 degrees at Kenton on Monday, March 14th, to 95 degrees at Altus on Thursday, March 17th. Precipitation ranged from none in the Southwest and South Central districts to 0.38 of an inch in the Northeast district. Soil temperature averages ranged from 42 degrees at Foraker on Monday, March 14th, to 71 degrees at Durant on Sunday, March 20th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending Sunday, March 20, 2011

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2011 to March 20, 2011		
					Total	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	72	38	54	0.09	0.26	-0.79	25
West Central	71	44	57	0.03	0.52	-1.03	34
Southwest	74	45	59	0.00	0.00	-1.46	0
North Central	69	43	56	0.09	0.95	-0.78	55
Central	72	47	59	0.02	0.32	-1.78	15
South Central	74	48	61	0.00	0.11	-2.18	5
Northeast	68	47	57	0.38	1.41	-0.96	59
East Central	70	50	59	0.18	0.71	-1.93	27
Southeast	73	51	61	0.21	0.69	-2.20	24