



Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office

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Severe Weather Brings Tornadoes, Hail and Rain

A severe storm Thursday resulted in preliminary National Weather Service reports of at least 20 tornadoes throughout the eastern half of the state. The strongest tornado, an EF-3, hit the small town of Tushka in Atoka County, killing two people and leveling buildings. There were also reports of hail up to softball size in the affected areas. In the west, high winds continued to dry out soil and even damaged barns, with sustained winds in excess of 50 miles per hour recorded. More grass and wildfires burned in the southwestern quarter of the state, as county burn bans remain in effect for the majority of the state. Significant rains were received in the eastern half of the state, with 2.6 inches in the Southeast district. However, the western half of the state received little to no rainfall. This precipitation alone will not undo the extended drought in the east, so more rainfall is needed throughout. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly very short with 89 percent rated short to very short. There were 5.8 days suitable for field work.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, April 17, 2011

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	64	64	1	57	59	3
Short	25	26	17	32	31	19
Adequate	11	10	71	11	10	73
Surplus	0	0	11	0	0	5

Small Grains: Conditions continued to decline, due to the drought, which is causing wheat and rye to head significantly ahead of normal. **Wheat** jointing was 93 percent complete by week's end, and wheat headed reached 41 percent complete, 23 points ahead of normal. **Rye** jointing was virtually complete by Sunday, 12 points ahead of normal, while rye headed reached 70 percent complete, 36 points ahead of the five-year average. **Oats** planted reached 93 percent complete and 44 percent were jointing by week's end. **Canola** blooming was 96 percent complete by Sunday, up from 77 percent the previous week.

Row Crops: In much of western Oklahoma, it is too dry to continue seedbed preparation, except on irrigated land. However in the northeast, corn planting is being slowed by the rains received last week. **Corn** seedbeds prepared reached 91 percent complete with 55 percent of corn planted and seven percent emerged by Sunday. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation reached 54 percent complete, 13 points ahead of normal. **Soybean** seedbed preparation was 43 percent complete, four points behind normal. **Peanut** seedbeds prepared reached 70 percent complete by week's end, 13 points ahead of the five-year average. **Cotton** seedbed preparation was 52 percent complete by Sunday, 16 points behind normal.

Pasture and Range: Conditions continue to be a concern with 59 percent rated poor to very poor. The lack of adequate pasture and range means livestock producers are continuing to feed hay and supplements.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$136 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$126 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Pond levels are low in many places and producers are running low on hay.

