



# Oklahoma Crop Weather

**Oklahoma Field Office**

**Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry**

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Monthly Summary for Dec 1 - Dec 31

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## Small Grains in Good Condition

A frigid end to the first week of the month was felt December 6-7 with negative wind chills in the Panhandle and temperatures in the teens and twenties throughout the state. A record low temperature for December 6th in Oklahoma was recorded at -6 degrees in Kenton. Temperatures were unseasonably warm only a week later, in true Oklahoma fashion. A blizzard hit the Panhandle December 19th with snowfall reports of up to 15 inches and drifts as high as 10 feet. Despite the dangerous conditions and road closings, the blizzard did bring snow cover for the Panhandle's wheat crop. The month ended with more unseasonably warm weather and a high of 82 degrees was recorded in Mangum and Cheyenne on New Year's Eve. Precipitation for the month averaged 2.41 inches, which is above normal for December. The Southeast district led the way in precipitation, while the Central district had the least at 1.75 inches. Several precipitation events throughout the month have improved conditions for small grains in the ground, but more moisture is needed to recover from the long drought. As of the December 27th Drought Monitor, 85 percent of the state was still in a drought and much of western Oklahoma was rated in an extreme to exceptional drought. The lack of run-off meant pond levels were still low, which was a concern for livestock operators along with low quality hay. However, the mild temperatures for most of the month have benefitted cattle producers. Topsoil moisture conditions improved slightly with 67 percent rated adequate or surplus and 33 percent rated short to very short. Subsoil moisture conditions continued to be rated mostly short to very short, though 31 percent of the state was rated as adequate.

<b>Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent</b>		
<i>For Month Ending December 31, 2011</i>		
<b>Moisture Rating</b>	<b>Topsoil</b>	<b>Subsoil</b>
Very Short	9	35
Short	24	34
Adequate	63	31
Surplus	4	0

**Small Grains:** Conditions for all small grains were rated mostly good, while the canola condition was rated mostly good to fair. **Wheat** grazed was at 37 percent, three points above the previous year. **Rye** grazed was at 63 percent. **Oats** grazed was at 42 percent, 27 points above the five-year average.

**Pasture and Range:** Pasture and range conditions were rated mostly poor to very poor. Conditions improved slightly from November, but producers were looking to small grain grazing due to the limited availability cool season grasses.

<b>Conditions by Percent</b>					
<i>For Month Ending December 31, 2011</i>					
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Winter Wheat	1	6	30	54	9
Canola	1	5	40	46	8
Rye	1	4	25	58	12
Oats	1	4	23	67	5
Livestock	9	17	40	31	3
Pasture and Range	43	31	21	5	0

**Livestock:** Conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range with 26 percent rated poor to very poor. Operators are feeding hay and continue to sell cattle as needed. The availability of water continued to be a major concern as December rainfall was not enough to replenish critically low ponds. There were a few reports of cattle deaths due to the blizzard in the Panhandle.

**Crop Progress by Percent**  
For Month Ending December 31, 2011

Crop and Event	2011	2010	5 Year Average
<i>Wheat</i> - Grazed	37	34	35
<i>Rye</i> - Grazed	63	65	64
<i>Oats</i> - Grazed	42	13	15

**Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data**

For Month Ending December 31, 2011

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Month Dec 1 to Dec 31	Sep 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2011		
					Total	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	42	22	32	1.77	4.77	-0.36	93
West Central	48	30	38	2.02	8.61	0.15	102
Southwest	50	32	40	1.88	9.66	0.18	102
North Central	48	29	37	2.92	9.96	0.79	109
Central	51	31	40	1.75	11.32	-1.27	90
South Central	53	33	43	2.10	12.37	-1.85	87
Northeast	51	30	40	2.20	12.10	-2.21	85
East Central	53	33	42	2.39	14.80	-1.71	90
Southeast	54	34	43	4.66	17.07	-1.60	91

**Weather for Month Ending December 31, 2011:** Temperatures ranged from -6 degrees at Kenton on Tuesday, December 6th, to 82 degrees at Cheyenne and Mangum on Saturday, December 31st. Precipitation ranged from 1.75 inches in the Central district to 4.66 inches in the Southeast district. Soil temperature averages ranged from 29 degrees at Goodwell on Wednesday, December 7th, to 57 degrees at Burneyville on Wednesday, December 14th.

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