



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 35, Number 6

Weekly Summary for Mar 12-Mar 18

Issued March 19, 2012

Warm Temperatures Encouraged Growth

Spring-like temperatures were felt throughout the state with average temperatures in the 60s and average highs in the upper 70s. The overall high temperature for every climate district was above 80 degrees, with a statewide high of 89 degrees recorded at Beaver in the Panhandle. Multiple temperature records were broken, including the highest minimum temperature for Oklahoma City every day from March 14-17 as well as multiple days in Tulsa and a record high temperature for March 13th in Ponca City at 84 degrees. The above average temperatures over several weeks meant rapid growth for small grains and some recovery in pasture and range conditions. Wheat jointing and canola blooming were significantly ahead of the previous year. Very little precipitation was measured this week, averaging only a hundredth of an inch for the entire state. In the East Central District, no Mesonet station recorded measurable rainfall for the week. The highest recorded total was 0.18 of an inch in Arnett, which fell Sunday. This was the beginning of a storm system which brought rain into the next week, but also produced several small tornadoes in Greer County. Spring fieldwork was ahead of normal for most crops, but further preparations and planting were on hold as producers await more rainfall. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate with 33 percent rated short to very short. Subsoil moisture continued to be rated mostly adequate to short. There were only 5.5 days suitable for field work.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, March 18, 2012

Moisture Rating	Current Week	Previous Week	One Year Ago
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	7	44
Short	26	27	34
Adequate	63	60	21
Surplus	4	6	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	29	24	50
Short	30	34	33
Adequate	40	40	17
Surplus	1	2	0

Small Grains: Development of all small grains and canola were ahead of normal, aided by the abnormally warm temperatures. Conditions continued to be rated mostly good, with 14 percent of wheat and 9 percent of canola rated excellent, respectively. **Wheat** jointing was 53 percent complete by Sunday, 17 points ahead of last year, and 22 points ahead of the five-year average. **Canola** blooming was 26 percent complete by week's end, well ahead of last year. **Rye** jointing was 67 percent complete, 23 points ahead of normal. **Oat** planting was near completion with 91 percent complete by the end of the week. Sixty percent of all oats had emerged, and nine percent was jointing by Sunday.

Row Crops: Preparation for spring planting continued where soil moisture allowed, and more progress is expected after the forecasted rains. **Corn** seedbed preparation was 54 percent complete by the end of the week, 10 points ahead of normal, and corn planting began in limited areas. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation was 29 percent complete, 12 points ahead of the five-year average. Preparation of **soybean** seedbeds was 23 percent complete by Sunday. **Peanut** seedbed preparation was 18 percent complete, eight points behind normal, while **cotton** seedbed preparation was 43 percent complete, 15 points ahead of the five-year average.

Pasture and Livestock: Conditions of pasture and range improved and were rated mostly fair to poor. Pastures were beginning to recover due to rains in previous weeks, and the spring-like temperatures fostered new growth. However, just over a quarter of the state's grazing land was still rated in very poor condition. Livestock conditions continued to be rated mostly good to fair. The cattle market continued to be strong. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$165 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$150 per cwt.

Conditions by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 18, 2012

Commodity	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	6	23	56	14
Canola	1	5	30	55	9
Rye	1	2	20	62	15
Oats	1	7	25	52	15
Livestock	8	17	39	33	3
Pasture and Range	26	28	30	14	2

-over-

Crop Progress by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 18, 2012

Crop	Stage	Current Week	Previous Week	One Year Ago	Five Year Average
Wheat	Jointing	53	39	36	31
Canola	Blooming	26	7	N/A	N/A
Rye	Jointing	67	41	38	44
Oats	Planted	91	83	80	85
	Emerged	60	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Jointing	9	N/A	6	N/A
Corn	Seedbed Prepared	54	38	40	44
Sorghum	Seedbed Prepared	29	24	10	17
Soybeans	Seedbed Prepared	23	21	11	18
Peanuts	Seedbed Prepared	18	7	17	26
Cotton	Seedbed Prepared	43	20	20	28

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending Sunday, March 18, 2012

Weather for Week Ending March 18, 2012:

Temperatures ranged from 31 degrees at Hooker on Thursday, March 15th, to 89 degrees at Beaver on Friday, March 16th. Precipitation ranged from less than one hundredth of an inch in the Northeast, West Central, Central, East Central, and Southeast Districts to 0.03 of an inch in the Panhandle District. Soil temperature averages ranged from 45 degrees at Hooker on Monday, March 12th, to 68 degrees at Hugo on Saturday, March 17th.

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	Current Week	Mar 1, 2012 to Mar 18, 2012		
					Total	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	82	44	63	0.03	0.36	-0.58	38
West Central	77	55	65	0.00	0.79	-0.61	57
Southwest	77	55	65	0.01	1.49	0.18	114
North Central	78	55	66	0.01	0.91	-0.64	59
Central	77	60	68	0.00	1.49	-0.39	79
South Central	76	61	68	0.01	2.06	-0.01	100
Northeast	78	60	68	0.00	1.28	-0.85	60
East Central	78	61	69	0.00	1.22	-1.15	51
Southeast	78	60	69	0.00	2.48	-0.13	95

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

USDA-NASS
 Oklahoma Field Office
 PO Box 528804
 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-8804

