



Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office
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Weekly Summary for Mar 19-Mar 25

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Rain Alleviated Drought Conditions

A slow moving storm system brought needed rain across much of the state, improving drought conditions. The Drought Monitor dated March 20th, showed 63 percent of the state was not categorized in a drought, compared to 27 percent the prior week. The majority of the Panhandle remained in an extreme to exceptional drought, and areas of the western part of the state remained in a moderate to severe drought. The highest amount of precipitation was recorded at Pryor's Mesonet station in the Northeast, at 7.61 inches, and the lowest amount, 0.33 inches, was received at the Kenton station in the Panhandle. Flooding was reported in parts of central and eastern Oklahoma. Both Oklahoma City and Tulsa recorded new daily rainfall records on March 19th, when 3.02 and 2.81 inches of rain were received for the areas. High temperatures for each Mesonet district were at or above 80 degrees, with the state high of 87 degrees reported at Kenton in the Panhandle. The rains slowed field work last week with little progress made in seedbed preparation for spring crops. Small grain crops responded favorably to the recent moisture. The recent rains also brought relief to ranchers as pasture conditions improved and warm season forage growth excelled. Topsoil moisture conditions improved significantly from last week's rain, with 87 percent rated adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture showed improvement with 56 percent rated adequate to surplus, up from 41 percent from last week. There were only 2.4 days suitable for field work.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent			
<i>Week Ending Sunday, March 25, 2012</i>			
Moisture Rating	Current Week	Previous Week	One Year Ago
Topsoil			
Very Short	5	7	52
Short	8	26	32
Adequate	64	63	15
Surplus	23	4	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	16	29	52
Short	28	30	33
Adequate	52	40	14
Surplus	4	1	1

Small Grains: Small grain crops and canola benefitted from the recent rains, improving progress and conditions for all crops. **Wheat** jointing was 73 percent complete by Sunday, up 20 points from last week and 23 points ahead of the five-year average, heading had begun in a few areas. **Canola** blooming was 69 percent complete by week's end, up 43 points from last week and well ahead of last year. **Rye** jointing was 81 percent complete by Sunday, 15 points ahead of normal. **Oat** planting was near completion with 94 percent complete by the end of the week. Seventy four percent of all oats had emerged and 16 percent was jointing.

Row Crops: Field preparation for spring crops was slow due to the abundant topsoil moisture during the first half of the week. **Corn** seedbed preparation was 66 percent complete by the end of the week, remaining 10 points ahead of normal, with nine percent of corn planted in limited areas. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation was 31 percent complete, eight points ahead of the five-year average. Preparation of **soybean** seedbeds was 25 percent complete by Sunday, up two points from last week. **Peanut** seedbed preparation was 20 percent complete, 15 points behind last year. **Cotton** seedbed preparation reached 45 percent complete, seven points ahead of the five-year average.

Pasture and Livestock: Pasture conditions showed an improvement from last week as 56 percent was rated in the fair to good range. The recent rains, along with the warm temperatures, have increased warm season forage growth for most of the state, allowing less supplemental hay feeding. Pond levels were close to normal due to additional runoff. 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 \$148 per cwt.

Conditions by Percent					
<i>For Week Ending Sunday, March 25, 2012</i>					
Commodity	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	5	19	56	19
Canola	1	5	26	52	16
Rye	1	2	17	62	18
Oats	0	2	25	58	15
Livestock	4	15	38	39	4
Pasture and Range	16	25	35	21	3

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Crop Progress by Percent

For Week Ending Sunday, March 25, 2012

Crop	Stage	Current Week	Previous Week	One Year Ago	Five Year Average
Wheat	Jointing	73	53	53	50
Canola	Blooming	69	26	15	N/A
Rye	Jointing	81	67	67	66
	Headed	16	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oats	Planted	94	91	85	92
	Emerged	74	60	N/A	N/A
	Jointing	16	9	13	10
Corn	Seedbed Prepared	66	54	60	56
	Planted	9	N/A	N/A	7
Sorghum	Seedbed Prepared	31	29	32	23
Soybeans	Seedbed Prepared	25	23	22	24
Peanuts	Seedbed Prepared	20	18	35	36
Cotton	Seedbed Prepared	45	43	30	38

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending Sunday, March 25, 2012

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	Current Week	Mar 1, 2012 to Mar 25, 2012		
					Total	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees	Degrees	Degrees	Inches	Inches	Inches	Percent
Panhandle	68	41	54	1.39	1.73	0.41	131
West Central	66	46	56	1.60	2.39	0.45	123
Southwest	68	46	57	1.97	3.48	1.65	191
North Central	67	47	56	2.01	2.92	0.76	135
Central	68	48	58	3.25	4.74	2.13	181
South Central	70	50	59	3.35	5.41	2.54	189
Northeast	67	49	58	4.96	6.24	3.28	211
East Central	69	50	59	4.76	5.98	2.68	181
Southeast	71	50	61	4.90	7.37	3.76	204

Weather for Week Ending March 25, 2012:

Temperatures ranged from 21 degrees at Goodwell on Tuesday, March 20th, to 87 degrees at Kenton on Sunday, March 25th. Precipitation ranged from 1.39 inches in the Panhandle District to 4.96 inches in the Northeast District. Soil temperature averages ranged from 46 degrees at Hooker on Thursday, March 22nd, to 67 degrees at Idabel on Monday, March 19th.

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