

Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 9, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of February 2 - 8, 2004
 TX-CW0604

1-800-626-3142
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Crop Condition Table - February 8, 2004

| Item | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very poor |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Wheat | 3 | 13 | 26 | 30 | 28 |
| Range & Pasture . . | 2 | 16 | 37 | 28 | 17 |

Agricultural Summary: Moisture supplies in the High Plains region were still lacking as only trace amounts of snow and a thin layer of ice fell during the week. Producers in the Plains and Panhandle were still hoping for more moisture to improve conditions in crop fields and pastures. During mid-week, moderate to heavy amounts of moisture fell in the eastern part of the state, extending from the South Central and Upper Coast northward into East Texas and the Blacklands. Moisture levels were adequate in these regions, except for parts of East Texas where excessive flooding and standing water was hurting pastures. Rainfall amounts were heaviest along East Texas and the eastern portion of the Blacklands. Hail was reported in Southeast Texas, but caused no damage. In some southern areas, conditions were somewhat damp, but winds were depleting some of the moisture. In the Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau regions, trace amounts of moisture and high winds occurred at times. Producers across many western counties would like to see more moisture and less wind. Frost and freezing nighttime temperatures were reported in many regions. Deep breaking, chiseling, and fertilizer applications was taking place in the Southern High Plains. In other areas, fieldwork and preparation for planting was active where conditions allowed. In some of the wettest locations, producers will have to wait for fields to dry before resuming fieldwork. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued across most of the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: In areas with adequate moisture, wheat conditions continued to improve, although in some areas of the Blacklands, powdery mildew was evident and was being treated. Recent traces of moisture have provided minimal to no help for wheat in the Plains, Panhandle, and Cross Timbers regions. Conditions were lagging way behind normal in these areas. Some replanting of wheat had occurred in the Northern Low Plains. In areas with improved conditions, producers continued to top dress fields. Threats from greenbugs and other pests have been on the decline. Statewide wheat

condition was rated at 40 percent of normal, compared with 75 percent last year.

Corn: Recent rains allowed for excellent preparatory conditions for corn planting in the next few weeks. However, in the southeast producers were waiting for saturated ground to dry out before any work or planting can take place. Some limited early planting was taking place in the Rio Grande Valley.

Cotton: In the Northern High Plains, preparations and decisions for Spring planting were topics of discussion. In the Southern High Plains and Low Plains, cotton harvest was complete, and ginning was nearing completion. Stalk shredding and field work was active. In Southern areas, preparations for planting were active as conditions allowed.

Sorghum: Fieldwork was active where conditions allowed. Some cattle continued to graze on stubble in the Plains due to such dry conditions. Some early planting was taking place in the Rio Grande Valley.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley** winds depleted the little moisture received. Harvesting continued on citrus, cabbage, and greens. Onions were progressing well.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, some delays in cabbage and spinach harvest occurred due to rain. Harvest was expected to resume as fields dry. Onions were doing well in this region.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

In most areas, due to lack of moisture, livestock continued to run out of pasture and supplemental feeding was active across most areas. Cooler temperatures in the Plains added stress to livestock. Saturated soils in the East caused minor hoof problems. There was still a shortage of water in the Plains and parts of North Texas as stock ponds remained low. Calving season was active in some areas and was starting in others. Preparations were being made for shearing of goats on the Edwards Plateau. Overall, livestock seemed to be maintained with little problems aside from supplemental feeding. Producers in some of the wettest areas were having difficulty feeding cattle due to muddy conditions.

Weather Information Table ¹

| National Weather Service Climatic Divisions | Previous week (Feb 2 - 8) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 8) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 8) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.98 | 18.87 | 77 |
| Low Rolling Plains | 0.10 | 0.10 | 1.53 | 23.78 | 83 |
| North Central Texas | 0.95 | 1.07 | 2.83 | 34.00 | 59 |
| East Texas | 1.13 | 1.46 | 4.71 | 45.69 | 78 |
| Trans Pecos | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.97 | 12.96 | 90 |
| Edwards Plateau | 0.09 | 0.09 | 1.50 | 24.01 | 62 |
| South Central Texas | 0.28 | 0.31 | 2.39 | 34.48 | 61 |
| Upper Coast | 0.61 | 0.79 | 5.68 | 47.63 | 106 |
| South Texas | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.95 | 23.49 | 61 |
| Lower Valley | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.04 | 25.34 | 49 |



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - February 8, 2004 *

| Condition | 1-N | 1-S | 2-N | 2-S | 3 | 4 | 5-N | 5-S | 6 | 7 | 8-N | 8-S | 9 | 10-N | 10-S |
|------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|------|------|
| | Percent of Acreage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Short | 47 | 32 | 51 | 43 | 34 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 53 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Short | 39 | 34 | 44 | 48 | 42 | 21 | 14 | 1 | 31 | 56 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 32 | 27 |
| Adequate | 14 | 27 | 5 | 9 | 24 | 47 | 53 | 34 | 16 | 23 | 72 | 87 | 4 | 64 | 73 |
| Surplus | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 65 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 96 | 0 | 0 |

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

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