

Texas Crop Weather



Released: February 17, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of February 9 - 15, 2004
 TX-CW0704

1-800-626-3142
 www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Condition Table - February 15, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	3	11	22	29	35
Range & Pasture . .	2	15	38	27	18

Agricultural Summary: Winter weather made another visit to the State during the week as freezing precipitation occurred over large areas. The week started with rain over many regions. The Upper Coast, East Texas, and eastern portions of Central Texas recorded a minimum of 2 inches of rain. A large area of East Texas experienced 3 to 4 inches as did some locations along the coast. North Central Texas generally received 1/2 to 1 inch of rain. Other regions recording rainfall include the Low Rolling Plains, the Edwards Plateau, and the Rio Grande Valley. Rain gauge readings in these regions were generally under 1/2 inch. The big weather story arrived in the latter half of the week when cold air slid in from the northwest to meet with a strong moisture flow from the Gulf. Snow began falling on the Panhandle where accumulations in the western half of the region were typically 1 inch and up to 4 inches in some locations. The Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and Central Texas generally recorded 1/2 to 3 inches of snow. Freezing precipitation reached as far south as San Antonio. A large area from about Wichita Falls to Texarkana reported 3 to 8 inches of accumulated snowfall. After the cold front moved through, skies were sunny and temperatures returned to seasonable. Most snow was melted within 36 hours. Soil moisture improved in many locations due to the excess precipitation. However, moisture shortages across the Panhandle through the Low Rolling Plains were still serious. Some pastures responded favorably to the wet weather. Fieldwork was very limited across the State. Where conditions allowed, producers were deep breaking soil in northern regions while producers in the south were completing preparations for spring planting. Cattle conditions were holding steady with heavy supplemental feeding.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Precipitation in the Panhandle and other northern regions should benefit wheat, but many fields may have been too damaged from drought and overgrazing. Those producers that still had enough wheat to graze, were deciding whether or not to pull off their stockers in order to make a grain crop. Wheat in the Blacklands was in decent shape with the

adequate moisture received the past few weeks. Producers were top dressing fertilizer where conditions allowed. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 35 percent of normal, compared with 74 percent last year.

Corn: Planting dates were getting closer in Central Texas as producers were waiting on fields to dry out and soils to warm up. Along the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend, producers were hoping rain would hold off for a few weeks as planting delays might already become a reality. In the Rio Grande Valley, planting has begun with reports of favorable soil moisture.

Cotton: Stalk shredding was active in northern regions when conditions allowed. Producers in the Coastal Bend were waiting for fields to dry out to complete land preparations. Planting dates were quickly approaching in the Rio Grande Valley.

Sorghum: Recent precipitation in central and southern regions should make favorable planting conditions within the next few weeks. Fieldwork was delayed in many areas as fields were drying out. Planting has begun in the Rio Grande Valley.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, preparations for spring vegetable planting continued. Harvest of remaining cabbage, greens, and citrus was delayed late week due to light rain.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage and spinach harvest continued where conditions allowed. Carrots and onions were progressing well.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pasture land in the western half of the State continued to be in poor shape. Only slight improvement was noticed on pastures that received precipitation. A majority of the range and pasture land in western regions were drought stricken or over grazed, and many producers were pulling cattle off pasture and hauling them to feedlots. Central areas, especially the Blacklands, have benefitted well from recent moisture and should arrive into spring with decent growth. East Texas and the Upper Coast were having problems with excess precipitation. Cattle were getting bogged down in some of the wettest locations. Overall, cattle condition held steady although some locations reported a decline due to cold weather. Feeding of hay and protein supplements remained heavy across the State, but was expected to decline in southern regions as Spring approached.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 9 - 15) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 15) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 15) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.08	0.14	1.06	18.87	77
Low Rolling Plains	0.20	0.30	1.73	23.78	83
North Central Texas	0.83	1.90	3.66	34.00	59
East Texas	2.63	4.09	7.34	45.69	78
Trans Pecos	0.06	0.12	1.03	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.17	0.26	1.67	24.01	62
South Central Texas	1.18	1.49	3.57	34.48	61
Upper Coast	2.66	3.45	8.34	47.63	106
South Texas	0.18	0.23	1.13	23.49	61
Lower Valley	0.71	0.71	1.75	25.34	49



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - February 15, 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	54	36	37	29	24	2	0	0	37	17	0	0	0	5	0
Short	40	30	47	62	34	12	8	0	38	53	2	9	0	26	23
Adequate	6	29	16	9	42	41	25	5	25	27	65	51	1	69	77
Surplus	0	5	0	0	0	45	67	95	0	3	33	40	99	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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