

Texas Crop Weather



Released: March 1, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of February 23 - 29, 2004
 TX-CW0904

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

Crop Progress Table - February 29, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn			
Planted	1	3	11
Emerged	0	2	2
Sorghum			
Planted	5	3	8

Crop Condition Table - February 29, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	4	15	27	28	26
Range & Pasture . .	3	20	38	24	15

Agricultural Summary: Widespread rain and snow were prevalent across many regions of the State for most of the week. In some areas, producers' optimism was improving with the arrival of much needed moisture and approaching planting dates. Snowfall was recorded across the Panhandle with accumulations of up to 6 inches in the southern portion of the region. In the Southern High Plains, up to 12 inches of snow fell in a few locations, and 2 inches of rain occurred over widespread areas. In the Low Rolling Plains and the Cross Timbers, heavy precipitation in the form of snow and a general 2 inch rain fell, with some locations reporting as much as 5 inches. The Blacklands and East Texas experienced rainfall amounts ranging from a trace to 2 inches, with 1/2 inch being most typical. In the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, and Trans Pecos regions, a trace to 1/2 inch of rain fell with isolated locations reporting over 1 inch. Areas of South Texas reported heavy downpours of 2 to 4 inches with some high winds and hail. Very little rain fell in the Rio Grande Valley. Soil moisture conditions improved in most areas, however the rain was not enough to refill stock tanks in locations suffering from prolonged drought. Soils remained saturated in parts of the Upper Coast and East Texas, and producers waited for a dry-out to occur before planting could take place. Pastures and crop fields responded well to the increased moisture. Wet conditions delayed fieldwork in almost all regions, and were becoming a problem in southern areas as the corn planting window was becoming narrower. Insects remained a problem in some small grain fields. Supplemental feeding of cattle remained heavy across the State, but was decreasing in southern regions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat and oats were improving with recent moisture. Green-up was occurring in some fields that appeared

almost lost only a few weeks ago. However, wheat fields that were too drought stricken or over grazed during the winter were too far gone. Irrigated wheat in the Plains remained favorable. Grazing continued in a few locations, but most cattle have been moved in order for producers to make a grain crop, or in many cases, because of a lack of adequate forage. Army cut worms and greenbugs were serious problems in some locations, and growers were spraying accordingly. Wheat in the Blacklands was in very good shape. Some of the wetter fields in Central Texas reported fungus problems. Planting of spring oats occurred in a few locations. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 42 percent of normal compared with 74 percent last year.

Corn: Limited planting was underway along the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast, but much of the acreage was far too wet to plant. Planting delays of 2 to 3 weeks have been common due to excess precipitation. Producers in Central Texas and the Blacklands were anxiously waiting for fields to dry out. Planting in the Rio Grande Valley was nearing completion.

Cotton: Field work was generally limited by weather in most regions. Excess precipitation should increase sub-soil moisture in time for spring planting. Cotton planting has begun in the Rio Grande Valley.

Sorghum: Most fields were too wet to plant. Very limited planting occurred in the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast regions. Sorghum planting was active in the Rio Grande Valley.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of citrus continued. Onion growers were preparing for harvest.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, onions and cabbage made good progress. Spinach harvest was ongoing, with some higher yielding fields having third cuttings. Potato planting has been completed, with some early fields already sprouting.

In the **Trans Pecos**, potato planting has begun with adequate moisture reported.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were starting to improve with recent precipitation and the coming of Spring. Green-up was occurring in pastures that looked very poor only few weeks ago. Producers in drought stricken areas would like a bit more moisture to carry them through the next few months. Stock tanks remained low and in need of run-off water. Supplemental feeding remained necessary across the state, but should lessen in the near future. In East Texas and the Upper Coast, cattle were tromping in muddy fields, and a few losses were reported as some cows and calves got stuck in the mud. Four-wheel drive was a necessity for providing hay to cattle in muddy pastures. Calving activity continued across the state.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Feb 23 - 29) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Feb 1 - 29) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Feb 29) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Nov - Jan) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.30	1.55	2.47	18.87	77
Low Rolling Plains	1.89	2.34	3.77	23.78	83
North Central Texas	2.26	4.24	6.00	34.00	59
East Texas	1.40	5.85	9.10	45.69	78
Trans Pecos	0.30	0.50	1.41	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.91	1.68	2.79	24.01	62
South Central Texas	0.89	2.40	4.48	34.48	61
Upper Coast	0.72	4.54	9.43	47.63	106
South Texas	0.68	0.91	1.81	23.49	61
Lower Valley	0.00	0.71	1.75	25.34	49



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - February 29, 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	46	22	11	13	8	0	0	0	40	8	0	0	0	4	0
Short	31	28	27	20	9	4	4	0	36	45	3	8	0	12	37
Adequate	23	45	62	67	74	46	57	65	24	45	63	39	7	84	63
Surplus	0	5	0	0	9	50	39	35	0	2	34	53	93	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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