

Texas Crop Weather



Released: December 13, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
 For the week of December 6 - 12, 2004
 TX-CW5004

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

Crop Progress Table - December 12, 2004

Crop	2003	2002	Average 1999-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Bolls Opening . . .	98	100	100
Harvested	60	82	87
Peanuts			
Harvested	93	98	97
Sorghum			
Harvested	88	93	97
Wheat			
Planted	94	99	98
Emerged	90	92	89
Other Field Crops Harvested			
Pecans	72	74	70
Soybeans	100	100	100
Sunflowers	99	99	100

Crop Condition Table - December 12, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	28	45	21	5	1
Range & Pasture . . .	12	46	31	9	2

Agricultural Summary: Conditions improved across the state during the week with only a few areas receiving additional rainfall and a few isolated storms in early week. Temperatures were unseasonably warm with high to moderate winds allowing drying to occur in all areas. In areas where little to no rainfall occurred, harvest activities resumed, however remained slow at times. Many other locations remained too wet and harvest activities were not possible. Planting of small grains moved ahead slowly in a few areas, however other areas reported conditions were still muddy and soils were unable to carry machinery. Grazing conditions remained variable across the state as some fields and pastures remained extremely muddy. Bogging and trampling continued to be a problem for some producers in varied locations. Supplemental feeding was required by an increasing number of producers across the state as summer grazing was declining and winter grasses were not adequate. Sickness in livestock remained variable; some herds had large numbers of sick individuals, however producers expected an improvement with better conditions in the forecast.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Growth and development improved with the return to warm and sunny days. Yellowing remained obvious in many fields, but improvement was expected. Some producers reported losses as a result of the extreme wet conditions. Other producers had a wait and see attitude

as to whether additional plantings would occur. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 85 percent of normal, compared with 46 percent last year.

Corn: Remaining corn harvest moved ahead in some areas. Warmer and dryer conditions allowed a few producers the opportunity to resume harvest activities and others were able to complete harvest.

Cotton: Cotton harvest remained active in the driest locations during the week. Ginning activities increased in the same locations as modules could finally be moved from muddy fields. Harvest in a few areas remained on hold until further drying occurred.

Sorghum: Harvest activities increased in many areas as conditions improved during the week. Some areas needed additional drying before harvest could resume. A few producers were choosing to graze remaining fields instead of harvesting for grain.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest remained active in a few locations; however the majority of producers indicated that harvest was complete.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, progress remained good for early planted vegetables. Harvest of early citrus and sugarcane remained active and harvest of cabbage and spinach moved ahead.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation remained active across the area during the week. Harvest of early cabbage and spinach moved ahead at a faster pace. Onions and carrots continued to make good progress.

In **East Texas**, harvest of cabbage, mustard and collard greens was active in several locations. Land preparation remained slow.

In the **High Plains**, land preparation was possible in a few locations across the plains. However remaining harvest continued to be the major activity.

In the **Trans Pecos**, fall onions continued to make good progress and pecan harvest was underway in several locations.

Pecans: Harvest efforts increased in most areas of the state as the result of warm and sunny days. A few areas remained too wet and harvest equipment was unable to move. Sprouting in the hull continued to be a problem for some producers.

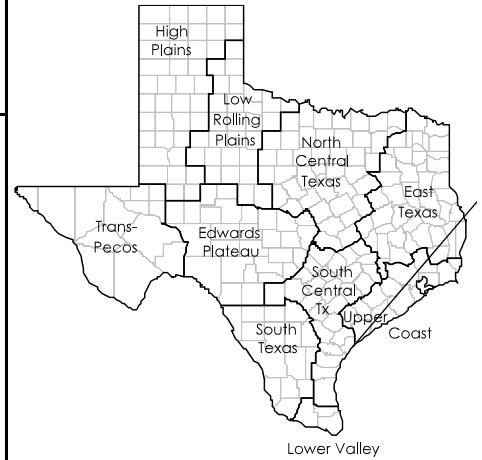
Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures were in excellent condition across the state, resulting from above average rainfall received over several weeks. Pasture damage remained an issue for many producers and some cattle herds were being held in dry lot awaiting adequate drying. A few producers were able to return livestock to wheat pasture as drying became adequate. Supplemental feeding continued to increase in most areas as winter approached. Haying operations were mostly completed in southern locations during late week. Livestock sickness remained a problem in many areas, however milder weather was expected to improve wellness.

NOTICE: Texas Crop Weather will not be published on December 20, December 27, 2004 and January 03, 2005. The next issue will be published on January 10, 2005.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Dec 6 - 12) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 12) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 12) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Sep - Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.07	27.09	18.87	235
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.04	26.91	23.78	132
North Central Texas	0.00	0.09	39.31	34.00	127
East Texas	0.05	0.26	46.07	45.69	112
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.04	19.54	12.96	178
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.07	30.07	24.01	142
South Central Texas	0.04	0.09	37.19	34.48	134
Upper Coast	0.03	0.16	57.47	47.63	136
South Texas	0.00	0.02	22.44	23.49	103
Lower Valley	0.00	0.46	26.64	25.34	109



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - December 12, 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	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	3	0
Short	0	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	19	4	0	53	0	26	63
Adequate	61	75	62	74	70	30	54	52	79	88	58	40	10	65	37
Surplus	39	22	28	25	30	70	46	48	0	8	42	0	90	6	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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