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TX-CW0206

Texas Crop Weather

Released January 9, 2006 (3:00 PM CST)

For the week of January 2 - 8, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Conditions across the state were unseasonably warm, windy and extremely dry in all areas. Generally, all harvest has been completed across the Plains and North Texas, however there were a very few locations where harvest was just now entering the final stages. Extreme drought continued to grip the state with conditions becoming worse by the day. Wildfires have consumed thousands of acres used for pastures along with many homes and business in varied locations around the state. Planting of small grains has been placed on hold except in areas where irrigation is available. The majority of all dry planted small grains have been lost due to the drought and in many other locations emergence after planting never occurred due to the absence of soil moisture. Range and pastures were in extremely bad condition across the state as the lack of moisture has prevented growth of any cool season forages. Supplemental feeding was high in all areas of the state and many producers were continuing to purchase hay supplies from out of state sources. Herd reduction and liquidation continued by many producers as the cost of quality hay has increased. Water available for livestock continued to decline and hauling water to livestock was in practice by many producers. Some producers continued to burn prickly pear cactus as another way to provide additional feed for their livestock herds. Much concern continued as to the prospects for rain in the upcoming months.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Land preparation continued, but was slow due to extremely dry soils across the state. Planting continued, but generally only where irrigation was available. Dry land producers were holding off on additional planting due to the absence of adequate soil moisture. Emergence of earlier planted fields remained poor and death losses in all small grains were extensive due to the lack of moisture. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated at mostly very poor.

Cotton: Harvest continued, but was generally complete except for a few isolated locations. Land preparation, including stalk destruction was underway in many locations. Ginning operations continued at a rapid pace. Some module fires have been reported, but were limited. Damage to modules from high winds was also reported in some locations.

Corn: Land preparation for next year's crop was underway, but delays were common in most areas due to high winds causing blowing dust.

Sorghum: Land preparation and fertilization was ongoing, however delays were common due to the extreme dry weather conditions during the week.

Peanuts: Harvest was completed in all remaining locations. Land preparation for next season's crop was underway, but slow as many producers were reluctant to disturb the soil which could cause severe wind erosion.

Soybeans: Land preparation for next year's crop moved ahead, but was slow or on hold until soil moisture levels improved.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, spinach, onions, and cabbage were making good progress. Irrigation was heavy in all locations, especially on vegetable crops. Harvest of spinach and cabbage was ongoing. Sugarcane harvest remained active during the week.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, early planted cabbage and spinach made good progress. Spinach development remained slower than normal in a few locations as the result the extreme dry conditions. Harvest of early cabbage and spinach continued. Irrigation remained necessary in all locations on cabbage, onions, spinach and carrots.

Pecans: Harvest was generally completed across the state, however a few orchards remained unharvested or partially unharvested in isolated locations.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions remained mostly very poor to poor across the majority of the state. High winds, warm temperatures and no rainfall have continued to remove soil moisture from pastures around the state. Winter forages were also very limited as there was not enough available soil moisture to promote emergence of these winter forage species. Supplemental feeding continued to increase across the state with many producers having to purchase supplies from out of state sources. Herd reduction and liquidation were becoming very common especially in areas where range fires have destroyed available pasture resources. Small grain grazing was extremely limited due to abnormally dry conditions and then only in areas where irrigation has been available. Hauling water to livestock continued to be necessary for many producers as many stock ponds are now totally dry. The number of range fires continued to increase across the state and thousands of acres have now been destroyed. Many producers indicated concern as to future rain prospects.

Crop Progress Table - January 8, 2005

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Cotton.....	Harvested	99	83	91
Winter Wheat.....	Emerged	90	94	93
Oats	Emerged	86	--	--
Pecans	Harvested	85	91	85

Top Soil Moisture by District – January 8, 2006*

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	83	67	79	82	92	94	86	82	57	65	76	48	29	44	37
Short	15	26	20	17	8	6	14	17	37	30	22	42	49	46	57
Adequate	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	6	5	2	10	22	9	6
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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.

Crop Condition Table – January 8, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
- Percent -					
Wheat	0	3	16	31	50
Oats	0	1	8	27	64
Range & Pasture	0	1	13	30	56

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Jan 2 - 8) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Dec 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Dec 31) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	0.01	16.06	18.87	59
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.01	17.69	23.78	41
North Central Texas	0.00	0.20	19.25	34.00	24
East Texas	0.00	1.19	25.70	45.69	28
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.12	12.27	12.96	103
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.10	18.97	24.01	60
South Central Texas	0.00	0.45	19.13	34.48	39
Upper Coast	0.00	1.83	39.24	47.63	58
South Texas	0.00	0.14	11.87	23.49	40
Lower Valley	0.00	0.82	12.01	25.34	74

^{1/} Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:

www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php and www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Cooperating Agencies:

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- National Weather Service

