



## USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

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TX-CW1306

### Texas Crop Weather

Released March 27, 2006 (3:00 PM CST)

For the week of March 20 - 26, 2006

**Agricultural Summary:** Rain returned to most areas of Texas. Just how long the rain would last was the question of the week for producers. The vast majority of the rain occurred early in the week. A cold front blew through the state, resulting in rainfall amounts ranging from ½ to 2 inches on the Panhandle and South Plains. There was also some early spring snowfall that arrived with the cold front. Up to 2 inches of snow fell in some locations, but it was not much more than a dusting in most areas. Widespread areas in North Central and Northeast Texas received 2 to 5 inches of rain. The heaviest downpours occurred in the Dallas-Fort Worth area where over 8 inches of rain accumulated. The Edwards Plateau, Central Texas, and portions of South Texas reported ½ to 2 inches of precipitation. The rain missed much of the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley. Frigid temperatures and high winds were felt across most regions. The northern half of the state realized low temperatures down in the 20's and 30's with some thermometer readings as low as the teens on the Panhandle. The increased moisture was more than welcomed in all regions; especially those recovering from the devastating wildfires. Pasture green-up progressed and stock tank water levels increased where rain fell. Summer crop planting was delayed as producers waited for fields to dry. Irrigation was put on hold for the meantime. Supplemental feeding was still very active in all areas but was beginning to decrease slightly as pastures became available. Effects of the long term drought were still prevalent across the state and a pattern of increased precipitation would have to be established before producers' could have much optimism about the crop year.

### Field Crops Report

**Small Grains:** Only limited benefit from the rain and snow on the Panhandle was expected for remaining dryland wheat. For most fields, the probability of a decent grain crop was slim. Insurance adjusters began to release failed acres due to drought. In other regions, wheat was greening-up and providing some grazing. Early headed fields in North Central Texas might have gotten some freeze damage but it was too early to tell. Wheat across the Blacklands and Northeast Texas was beginning to show some promise after a few weeks of increased moisture. Statewide, wheat condition was rated mostly poor to very poor. Statewide, oat condition was rated mostly very poor.

**Cotton:** Planting was delayed on the Blacklands by welcomed wet conditions. Cotton seeding was in full swing in southern regions. The Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley missed most of the rain and irrigation was active where available. Dryland fields in those regions will

require more precipitation to make a decent stand. Increased moisture benefitted producers on the South Plains in their land preparation.

**Corn:** Corn fields received much needed rainfall on the Blacklands. There was concern about early emerged stands getting burned by freezing temperatures but it was too early to tell in many fields. Planting activity was beginning to wrap up across the Blacklands and southern regions. Areas of the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend, and the Rio Grande Valley failed to receive adequate rainfall and fields were suffering. Many producers in those areas did not plant due to conditions being too dry. In South Texas, irrigation was very active.

**Sorghum:** Blackland growers were concerned that the freeze burned emerging plants. Rain was helpful where realized, but many southern areas were still waiting for moisture to aid emergence. Field preparations continued in northern areas.

**Rice:** Planting continued on the Upper Coast. Emergence has occurred in earlier planted fields and a few growers have begun flooding.

**Soybeans:** Planting was ongoing on the Upper Coast. Some producers in the eastern half of the region were planting an earlier season bean to take advantage of recent moisture.

### **Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, harvest of sugarcane, vegetables, and Valencia oranges continued.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, irrigation was active on potatoes, carrots, and onions. Cabbage harvest continued.

In **East Texas**, watermelon planting was ongoing. Sweet potato growers continued to prepare their land. Summer vegetable planting approached.

**Peaches and pecans** that have budded out and bloomed were being monitored closely for freeze damage.

### **Livestock, Pasture and Range Report**

Pasture conditions were helped by the increased precipitation in the northern half of the state. South Texas got little to no relief from the extreme drought. Green-up and growth decreased supplemental feeding of cattle somewhat but much more rainfall will be needed for adequate forage. Stock tanks were filled in many locations to lessen the burden on cattlemen. Herd sell off was still active. Body conditions remained below normal. Most calves were on the ground as spring calving slowed. Shearing of sheep and angora goats was active.

**Crop Progress Table - March 26, 2006**

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	52	42	39
	Emerged	29	16	20
Cotton	Planted	8	5	6
Rice	Planted	37	15	16
	Emerged	14	0	1
Sorghum	Planted	34	23	27
Soybeans	Planted	13	7	7
Sunflowers	Planted	2	0	0
Winter Wheat	Headed	5	5	4
Oats	Headed	19	--	--

**Top Soil Moisture by District – March 26, 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	56	47	44	28	14	9	5	14	57	46	62	99	33	74	67
Short	34	49	41	36	27	21	10	37	32	40	36	1	34	24	30
Adequate	10	4	15	36	59	55	64	41	11	14	2	0	31	2	3
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	15	21	8	0	0	0	0	2	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.

**Crop Condition Table – March 26, 2006**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index <sup>1/</sup>	
	Percent					2006	2005
Wheat	1	6	15	29	49	25	84
Oats	0	5	15	33	47	24	--
Range & Pasture	0	6	20	32	42	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> The formula for the condition index is  $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$  where  
 I=crop condition Index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Weather Information Table <sup>1/</sup>

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Mar 20 - 26) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 26) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 26) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.08	1.20	1.35	18.87	10
Low Rolling Plains	0.02	1.47	1.83	23.78	13
North Central Texas	0.05	2.96	6.37	34.00	61
East Texas	0.38	3.01	10.30	45.69	78
Trans Pecos	0.00	0.55	0.74	12.96	23
Edwards Plateau	0.08	1.25	2.25	24.01	33
South Central Texas	0.04	1.00	2.43	34.48	29
Upper Coast	0.13	0.21	3.08	47.63	48
South Texas	0.00	0.21	0.30	23.49	7
Lower Valley	0.24	0.24	0.53	25.34	27

<sup>1/</sup> 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](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php) and [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

**Cooperating Agencies:**

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

