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TX-CW1906

Texas Crop Weather

Released May 8, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)

For the week of May 1 - 7, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Most of the state received much needed rain. Over 2 inches of precipitation fell in large areas of the Southern Low Plains, eastern Edwards Plateau, Cross Timbers, and Central Texas, with some areas recording up to 6 inches. Most of Eastern Texas and the Upper Coast received at least 0.5 inches of moisture, and readings from 1 to 2 inches were common. The San Antonio-Winter Garden reported many areas with 0.5 to 1.5 inches of rain, and precipitation totaled 0.1 to 1 inches in much of the High Plains, Northern Low Plains, and western Edwards Plateau. The eastern Trans-Pecos had areas with 0.25 to 2 inches. Unfortunately, most of the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend received no moisture. Range and pasture continued to improve in areas that reported rain. Many producers continued supplemental feeding and, in South Texas, culled herds.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Most of the wheat in the Plains continued to be grazed or cut for hay and silage; some fields were destroyed by hail. Growers in the Blacklands also cut wheat for hay, and some plowed the crop under to prepare for spring planting of other crops. Harvest of wheat and oats for grain began in southern regions. Statewide, wheat condition was mostly rated very poor to poor. Oats condition statewide was mostly rated very poor to poor.

Cotton: Planting was underway in the High Plains. The cooler weather and rain delayed planting in some areas of the Low Plains. The crop was a loss in areas of the Rio Grande Valley due to the severe drought there.

Corn: Farmers in some areas of the High Plains finished planting; others were still planting or pre-watering to prepare for planting. The crop was making good progress in the Blacklands. Some fields in South Central Texas were plowed up, and the condition was poor in areas of the Upper Coast. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to good.

Sorghum: Producers have just begun to plant in the Northern High Plains; some were waiting to finish planting their cotton. The crop was doing well in the Blacklands in response to good moisture, although some insect problems were reported. In the Upper Coast, the crop responded well to recent rains. The condition was mostly rated poor to fair statewide.

Peanuts: Farmers were planting in the Southern High Plains and Northern High Plains.

Rice: Some insect damage was reported in the Upper Coast. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Planting was expected to start soon in the Northern High Plains. Plants have emerged in areas of the Blacklands. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to good.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, growers harvested onions and melons under dry conditions.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers harvested carrots, cabbage, potatoes, and green beans. Hail damaged some onions and melons. Despite the rain received during the week, growers were busy providing additional water to onions, watermelons, and cabbage.

Pecan growers sprayed for pecan nut casebearer in areas of the Blacklands and Edwards Plateau. Spraying was expected soon in the Cross Timbers, where eggs were found about two weeks earlier than usual.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock were reported to be in fair to good condition across much of the state as range and pasture improved under widespread precipitation. Tanks and stock ponds filled up in many areas. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding in most regions. Heavy shipments of cattle were reported in the Southern Low Plains and South Texas. Ranchers were branding calves and shearing sheep.

Crop Progress Table - May 7, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Planted	91	83	86
	Emerged	64	68	70
	Silked (Tasseled)	1	1	4
Cotton	Planted	31	24	26
	Squaring	1	2	3
Peanuts	Planted	18	10	22
Rice	Planted	92	96	96
	Emerged	90	88	88
Sorghum	Planted	68	49	50
	Headed	7	6	5
Soybeans	Planted	87	60	64
	Emerged	78	--	--
Sunflowers	Planted	40	14	30
Winter Wheat	Headed	76	74	72
	Harvested (Grain)	0	0	1
Oats	Headed	84	--	--
	Harvested (Grain)	2	0	0

Crop Condition Table – May 7, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	42	33	12	10	64	75
Rice	3	28	65	4	0	69	86
Sorghum	2	23	20	14	41	40	--
Soybeans	8	48	31	9	4	73	79
Wheat	0	7	19	25	49	26	71
Oats	1	8	25	32	34	33	62
Range & Pasture	2	14	32	24	28	--	--

^{1/} 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.

Top Soil Moisture by District – May 7, 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	75	34	45	9	9	4	7	10	53	20	44	97	16	58	93
Short	17	47	31	39	12	33	34	43	37	48	33	3	28	34	7
Adequate	8	19	22	49	68	58	57	46	10	30	22	0	52	8	0
Surplus	0	0	2	3	11	5	2	1	0	2	1	0	4	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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (May 1 - 7) Accumulation	Month-to-date (May 1 - 7) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 7) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.48	0.48	2.46	18.87	73
Low Rolling Plains	1.83	1.83	4.84	23.78	68
North Central Texas	2.05	2.05	11.30	34.00	95
East Texas	0.99	0.99	14.47	45.69	89
Trans Pecos	0.01	0.01	1.07	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	1.22	1.22	5.49	24.01	81
South Central Texas	0.85	0.85	5.09	34.48	53
Upper Coast	1.17	1.17	7.57	47.63	57
South Texas	0.32	0.32	1.30	23.49	24
Lower Valley	0.05	0.05	0.82	25.34	18

^{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

