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TX-CW2706

Texas Crop Weather

Released July 3, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of June 26 – July 2, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Wide areas of South, South Central Texas and the Coast (including the eastern Lower Valley) received over 0.5 inches of rain. Some parts of South Texas reported up to 4 inches. Over 0.5 inches of precipitation fell in isolated locations of the Northern High Plains, Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, and South East Texas. Most of the rest of the state received at most 0.25 inches, except for the area from the Cross Timbers through the North East where there was little if any moisture. Heavy grasshopper infestations were reported in East and South Central Texas. Many growers who cut and baled hay in dryland areas reported yields below 50% of normal. Pasture continued to deteriorate across most of the state. Ranchers provided supplemental feed and culled herds.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: High Plains growers had harvested virtually all of their wheat.

Cotton: Irrigated cotton was holding on well in the High Plains, with high fruit sets in some locales and minimal insect pressures. However, significant dryland acreage was zeroed out by insurance adjusters in parts of the Southern High Plains due to high temperatures and lack of moisture. Some growers replanted in the Low Plains due to poor stands. Bolls began to open in the Lower Valley, where there were some insect problems. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Corn: Growth ranged from planted to tasseled, under heavy irrigation, in the Northern High Plains. Insect problems were minimal. A lot of the crop in some parts of the Northern High Plains and Blacklands will go to hay or silage. Growers continued to cut corn for silage in the Blacklands. Some fields in South Central Texas were zeroed out and cut for hay. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Rains and cooler temperatures early in the week in the High Plains prompted some dryland growers to plant. In the Blacklands, some farmers cut and baled sorghum for hay due to poor conditions, but in other areas that had recent precipitation the crop was maturing rapidly with improved yield prospects. In South Central Texas, seed heads were barely emerged and thin in some fields. Fields were zeroed out by insurance adjusters and cut for hay. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to good.

Peanuts: Peanuts grew well with the heat in the Southern High Plains, where virtually all of the crop is irrigated. Planting was complete in the major growing area of South Texas. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly fair to good.

Rice: The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good.

Soybeans: Growers in some areas of the Blacklands harvested all of their crop for hay or silage. Fields were variously helped or hurt by recent heavy rains on the Coast. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, producers continued to harvest watermelons and cantaloups. Harvest of cantaloups and watermelons in the Trans-Pecos was nearing a peak level.

In **East Texas**, watermelon and tomato harvest was in full swing, but producers were winding down the peach and blackberry harvests. Peach production and fruit size were expected to be below normal in some areas of South East Texas due to insufficient chilling hours; a locality in the Edwards Plateau reported a complete loss of the peach crop. Peach yields were expected to be at best 1/3 of normal in some areas of the Cross Timbers. Blueberry harvest continued in the North East with fair to good yields. Pumpkins progressed well under heavy irrigation in the Northern High Plains. Grapes were coming along well in parts of the Edwards Plateau.

Pecans: Nuts were about 3/4 inches long in areas of the High Plains, but trees were stressed from minimal moisture reserves. A reduced crop was expected in the Trans-Pecos, due to previous hail damage and the fact that this is an "off" year for this alternate-bearing crop. Prospects looked "medium" in South Central Texas, but casebearer activity was light there. Irrigation water was not available in some South Texas orchards because of pumping restrictions.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Producers across the state continued to cull herds due to lack of forage and the high cost of hay. Some ranchers sold entire herds. Supplemental feeding continued in most areas, and in some cases prickly pear was fed to remaining rangeland cattle. Pasture conditions improved somewhat in areas that recently received rain, but in most localities conditions continued to be poor and stock ponds were low because of inadequate precipitation. Sheep and goats were reported to be faring better than cattle on parched rangelands in the Trans-Pecos. Ranchers shipped lambs and goats in the Edwards Plateau.

Crop Progress Table – July 2, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Silked (Tasseled)	69	65	67
	Dough	54	55	53
	Dent	43	26	31
	Mature	15	3	6
Cotton	Squaring	48	34	44
	Setting Bolls	18	13	16
Peanuts	Pegging	30	19	27
Rice	Headed	60	15	37
Sorghum	Headed	61	46	50
	Coloring	45	38	37
	Mature	29	21	21
	Harvested	13	12	10
Winter Wheat	Harvested (Grain)	96	89	88
Oats	Harvested (Grain)	85	93	95

Crop Condition Table – July 2, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	2	16	33	21	28	43	77
Cotton	4	16	30	28	22	45	67
Peanuts	11	20	59	8	2	68	82
Rice	7	35	54	4	0	73	80
Sorghum	1	27	28	17	27	48	70
Soybeans	1	19	40	24	16	49	60
Range & Pasture	1	5	23	29	42	--	--

^{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 – July 2, 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	65	69	67	53	45	49	45	23	63	47	54	90	4	47	40
Short	30	25	27	39	49	38	47	46	24	39	36	10	11	23	53
Adequate	5	6	6	8	5	9	8	31	13	13	10	0	79	30	7
Surplus	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	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 (Jun 26 – Jul 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jun 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Mar - May) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.01	0.92	4.41	18.87	73
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	0.98	7.18	23.78	89
North Central Texas	0.08	1.72	13.39	34.00	77
East Texas	0.31	2.71	18.80	45.69	66
Trans Pecos	0.17	0.54	1.77	12.96	54
Edwards Plateau	0.40	1.50	7.87	24.01	79
South Central Texas	0.52	1.65	9.16	34.48	66
Upper Coast	1.22	6.07	19.43	47.63	91
South Texas	0.70	0.71	3.99	23.49	47
Lower Valley	0.85	1.41	3.88	25.34	40

^{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

