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TX-CW2906

Texas Crop Weather

Revised July 24, 2006

For the week of July 10-16, 2006

Agricultural Summary: One to 2 inches of rain fell in parts of the Panhandle. Many areas down to the Southern Low Plains received at least 0.5 inches of precipitation, which in a few places was accompanied by high winds and hail. Many localities in the Trans-Pecos recorded over 0.25 inches of moisture, and a few areas there had up to 2 inches. Large areas of the Upper Coast and South East Texas received 0.1 to 1 inches of precipitation. Isolated parts of South Texas, and coastal areas in the Lower Valley and Coastal Bend, recorded 0.25 inches of moisture. The rest of the state, from the Edwards Plateau through the Cross Timbers and North East Texas, was generally dry, with temperatures in the 100's. Grasshopper infestations were reported in areas of East and South Central Texas. Heavy rains in recent weeks delayed harvest in the Upper Coast. Pasture improved in areas that received rain during the week. Ranchers continued to provide supplemental feed and reduce herd sizes.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: Most irrigated cotton in the Northern High Plains was progressing well and blooming, with some presence of boll worm moths but generally light insect pressures. Irrigated fields in the Southern High Plains began to square heavily and bloom. Dryland growers in many areas across the Plains continued to zero out their fields, although the week's rains rescued a few acres from disaster. Some Blacklands fields wilted under hot, dry conditions. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Corn: Growers irrigated heavily in the Northern High Plains, where maturity ranged from pollination to the beginning of grain filling. Farmers in that area were finishing up planting of the silage crop. Many farmers in the Blacklands and South Central cut their crop for hay or silage. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: The crop never emerged in some fields in the High Plains due to dry weather. Growers in some areas of the Southern High Plains planted sorghum where cotton was zeroed out. Producers in the Blacklands and South Central continued to harvest for grain, but some South Central farmers baled their crop for hay instead. Growers resumed harvest with the drying of fields in the Coastal Bend. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Peanuts: The crop progressed well, developing a good canopy, in the Southern High Plains. Some farmers in the Blacklands baled their crop for hay. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly fair to good.

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

Soybeans: Statewide, the condition was mostly rated fair to poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, farmers began to plant cabbage.

Grapes were ripening and turning color in the **Southern High Plains**. East Texas producers continued to harvest a good watermelon crop, as well as tomatoes. In the Edwards Plateau, farmers harvested melons. Watermelon harvest was winding down in South Central Texas. Producers irrigated pumpkins in the Northern High Plains, where weeds continued to be a problem in some fields.

Pecans: Some trees in the Cross Timbers were dying due to drought conditions. Dryland orchards in the Edwards Plateau experienced some nut drop, and yield prospects were not good. Light insect activity was reported in South Central Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Those areas that received rain during the week reported improved pasture conditions. However, conditions continued to worsen in the regions from the Edwards Plateau through the Cross Timbers and North East that remained dry. Ranchers continued to provide supplemental feed and cull herds across much of the state. Hay was still in short supply and expensive in most of Texas. Cattle condition was still generally fair to good across the state. Ranchers in the Edwards Plateau weaned lambs and goats.

Crop Progress Table – July 16, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Silked (Tasseled)	89	79	82
	Dough	56	62	62
	Dent	50	50	51
	Mature	37	30	28
Cotton	Squaring	67	68	73
	Setting Bolls	22	20	30
	Bolls Opening	3	8	7
Peanuts	Pegging	60	75	67
Rice	Headed	84	60	68
Sorghum	Headed	70	53	56
	Coloring	54	45	44
	Mature	42	36	33
	Harvested	24	27	23
Winter Wheat	Harvested (Grain)	100	99	98
Oats	Harvested (Grain)	99	96	99

Crop Condition Table – July 16, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	16	35	21	25	45	64
Cotton	4	16	31	24	25	45	67
Peanuts	10	37	43	8	2	72	82
Rice	1	26	64	9	0	65	79
Sorghum	2	19	28	26	25	44	69
Soybeans	1	14	31	29	25	41	58
Range & Pasture	1	8	27	30	34	--	--

^{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 16, 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	58	66	64	56	54	50	13	57	50	24	94	0	24	0
Short	40	26	29	32	40	33	45	40	34	41	42	6	0	36	90
Adequate	4	14	5	4	4	12	5	46	9	9	33	0	62	39	10
Surplus	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	38	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.

Weather Information Table ^{1/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (July 10 - 16) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 16) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 16) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.14	0.80	5.21	18.87	38
Low Rolling Plains	0.37	0.53	7.71	23.78	53
North Central Texas	0.00	0.54	13.85	34.00	45
East Texas	0.04	1.25	19.74	45.69	43
Trans Pecos	0.15	0.33	2.10	12.96	18
Edwards Plateau	0.00	0.59	8.12	24.01	51
South Central Texas	0.01	1.91	10.69	34.48	56
Upper Coast	0.08	4.83	23.08	47.63	94
South Texas	0.00	1.30	4.81	23.49	46
Lower Valley	0.00	1.17	4.86	25.34	39

^{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

