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TX-CW3006

Texas Crop Weather

Released July 24, 2006 (3:00 PM CDT)
For the week of July 17-23, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Much of East Texas and the Upper Coast received at least 0.5 inches of rain, and a few locations in those areas got 1 to 2 inches. The region from the Coastal Bend, through South Central Texas to the southern Edwards Plateau, saw scattered precipitation that usually did not exceed 0.5 inches. Most of the rest of the state was dry with temperatures exceeding 100 most of the week. Pasture conditions declined across the state, except in southeast coastal areas that recently received moisture. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding and herd reduction statewide.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: Irrigated cotton looked good and was setting bolls in the High Plains. However, input costs for water were much higher than usual due to the hot, dry conditions. Harvest was well underway in the Blacklands. Growers began harvest in the Coastal Bend and Lower Valley. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Corn: Farmers began to harvest in the Blacklands, where there were growing concerns about high aflatoxin. Some of these growers baled their corn for hay. South Central producers were harvesting or cutting their crop for hay. Harvest began in the Upper Coast. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to poor.

Sorghum: The dryland crop was starting to head out in the Northern High Plains but was also turning color due to heat and moisture stress. The irrigated crop looked good there. Dryland acres in the Southern High Plains that were planted after failed cotton were generally in poor condition, except in areas that received rain recently. Yields were a little better than expected in areas of the Blacklands. Producers were finishing harvest in South Central Texas. Rains delayed harvest in some areas of the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: The crop pegged at an "intense" rate in the Southern High Plains, where irrigation was heavy. Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly fair to good.

Rice: Growers began to harvest in the Upper Coast, where there were fewer fungal problems because of recent dry weather. The condition of rice was mostly rated fair to good statewide.

Soybeans: Harvest was nearly complete in the Blacklands, with very low yields reported. Some farmers there baled the crop for hay. Statewide, the condition was mostly rated poor to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Growers began to harvest watermelons in the **Southern High Plains**. Peach harvest was light in the Cross Timbers due to drought conditions. East and South Central producers were winding down the watermelon harvest. Trans-Pecos growers shipped cantaloups and onions. In the Edwards Plateau, farmers harvested very good quality melons. Pumpkins progressed well under heavy irrigation in the Northern High Plains.

Pecans: Trees dropped nuts in the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau due to drought conditions. Nuts were at the expansion stage in the Trans-Pecos. Aphid infestations were reported in South Central Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures were reported to be “January brown” in areas of the Plains due to the very hot and dry conditions. Grazing conditions declined rapidly across most of the state, except southeast coastal areas that benefitted from recent rains. The poor conditions, combined with scarce, expensive hay supplies and depleted water tanks, caused ranchers to continue culling herds. Producers provided supplemental feed and weaned calves early to relieve nutritional pressure on cows. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good where supplemental feed was available.

Crop Progress Table – July 23, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Silked (Tasseled)	93	87	90
	Dough	69	65	66
	Dent	64	58	56
	Mature	56	44	41
	Harvested	14	10	8
Cotton	Squaring	80	80	83
	Setting Bolls	35	30	44
	Bolls Opening	6	11	9
Peanuts	Pegging	64	85	80
Rice	Headed	92	70	80
Sorghum	Headed	71	56	60
	Coloring	58	47	46
	Mature	49	39	38
	Harvested	32	32	29

Crop Condition Table – July 23, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Corn	3	19	26	22	30	43	60
Cotton	4	15	32	27	22	45	67
Peanuts	8	31	49	9	3	69	79
Rice	5	27	60	8	0	68	79
Sorghum	2	21	27	22	28	44	68
Soybeans	1	13	27	28	31	38	60
Range & Pasture	1	7	22	31	39	--	--

^{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 23, 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	58	64	81	70	63	71	67	13	72	57	33	27	0	34	85
Short	36	28	17	27	34	26	29	63	25	35	46	32	5	40	15
Adequate	6	8	2	3	3	3	4	24	3	8	21	33	80	25	0
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	15	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 17 - 23) Accumulation	Month-to-date (July 1 - 23) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Jul 23) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Apr - Jun) Percent of Normal ^{2/}
High Plains	0.00	0.80	5.21	18.87	44
Low Rolling Plains	0.07	0.60	7.78	23.78	63
North Central Texas	0.12	0.66	13.97	34.00	55
East Texas	0.40	1.65	20.14	45.69	55
Trans Pecos	0.04	0.37	2.14	12.96	30
Edwards Plateau	0.16	0.75	8.28	24.01	63
South Central Texas	0.29	2.20	10.98	34.48	54
Upper Coast	1.34	6.17	24.42	47.63	106
South Texas	0.10	1.40	4.91	23.49	39
Lower Valley	0.19	1.36	5.05	25.34	42

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

^{2/} Revised.

For more weather information, please visit the following web sites:
www.srh.noaa.gov/ftcshare/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

