



USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Field Office

Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767
Voice: (800) 626-3142 * Fax: (800) 842-1331
nass-tx@nass.usda.gov * www.nass.usda.gov/tx

TX-CW4306

Texas Crop Weather

Released October 23, 2006

For the week of October 16 - 22, 2006

Agricultural Summary: Heavy rainfall in the Upper Coast, South Central, and South East totaled 4 to 15 inches in many areas. Over 18 inches fell northeast of Houston, causing flooding that forced ranchers to move cattle to higher ground. Showers in the Low Plains, Cross Timbers, and Blacklands brought up to 4 inches of rainfall. The rest of the state, with the exception of the northern Panhandle, southwestern Trans-Pecos, and western areas of South Texas, received at least a tenth of an inch of rainfall, with many areas reporting 0.25 to 1 inches. Producers in the Northern High Plains cut and baled hay at full bore, trying to get ahead of the next rain.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Winter wheat was reported to be in very good shape in the Plains because of the wet conditions. Producers in the Cross Timbers continued to prepare fields and plant small grains, which were helped "tremendously" by recent rains. Producers who were able to get into their fields in the Blacklands planted wheat; the rains of the last two weeks improved prospects for small grains in that area, but army worms continued to be a problem. Producers planted small grains in the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas. Most small grain acreage had been planted in the South. The condition of winter wheat was mostly good to fair statewide.

Cotton: Harvest began in the Northern High Plains, but cool, damp conditions brought maturity to a standstill. The damp conditions delayed harvest in most of the Plains and slowed the action of the harvest aids that had been applied to many fields. Some growers were waiting for the first freeze to start harvesting. Harvest continued in the northern Edwards Plateau. Heavy rain kept producers from completing harvest and destroying stalks in the Upper Coast. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly good to poor.

Sorghum: Growers in the High Plains were hoping for a late freeze, as the cool, wet, weather delayed maturity of a crop that many of them planted late. There were fields in the Northern High Plains that had many green heads mixed with mature heads, but some acreage in the Southern High Plains was reported to be at full maturity. Growers in the Upper Coast harvested fields between rains.

Peanuts: Producers dug peanuts in the Southern High Plains, but the weather did not allow the nuts to dry out, and some pod rot was reported, though not excessive. Harvest was in full swing in South Texas. Peanut condition statewide was mostly good to fair.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Producers harvested sweet potatoes in the North East, and reported below normal yields. Hail damaged recently planted onions in the Trans-Pecos, and accompanying rain could reduce plant establishment by crusting the soil. Producers in the San Antonio-Winter Garden planted spinach for both fresh and processed markets.

Pecans: Producers harvested pecans in the Blacklands and South Texas. Growers waited for a killing frost to drop leaves before starting to harvest in the Trans-Pecos. Harvest was nearly complete in South Central areas, where yields were reported to be way down.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Stocker cattle were arriving in the Northern High Plains, where livestock were in good to “great” condition. Pastures were in good condition in the Plains and stock tanks were refilling, due to recent rains. Producers cut and baled hay in the Cross Timbers, where there has not been enough runoff water to replenish low stock tanks and ranchers continued to supplement livestock due to scarce forage. Rains also did little to refill stock tanks in the Blacklands. Hay continued to be in short supply in the North East, where many pastures were still in poor condition because of the long-term effects of the drought. Rangeland and small grain pastures improved in the Edwards Plateau and South, where producers cut hay.

Crop Progress Table – October 22, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Harvested	97	93	94
Cotton	Bolls Opening	88	89	87
	Harvested	29	27	32
Peanuts	Harvested	37	32	33
Rice	Harvested	100	100	100
Sorghum	Mature	86	85	86
	Harvested	74	68	72
Soybeans	Harvested	92	81	87
Sunflowers	Harvested	78	63	79
	Planted	78	75	80
Winter Wheat	Emerging	62	47	58
	Planted	73	62	73
Oats	Emerging	40	25	25
	Planted			

Crop Condition Table – October 22, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Cotton	7	22	30	22	19	52	72
Peanuts	8	32	46	10	4	68	86
Wheat	14	38	37	9	2	74	--
Range & Pasture	3	12	28	30	27	--	--

^{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 – October 22, 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	8	5	0	8	10	16	40	2	22	19	22	0	0	5	27
Short	24	18	7	26	45	33	42	10	28	30	41	4	0	41	15
Adequate	54	62	62	64	44	45	18	61	49	51	30	72	41	53	58
Surplus	14	15	31	2	1	6	0	27	1	0	7	24	59	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 (Oct 16 - 22) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 22) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Oct 22) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.08	1.82	14.23	18.87	108
Low Rolling Plains	0.05	4.31	16.87	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.33	3.02	21.28	34.00	86
East Texas	3.12	5.90	31.28	45.69	72
Trans Pecos	0.00	1.19	8.20	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.08	1.62	13.97	24.01	64
South Central Texas	0.68	2.28	16.86	34.48	60
Upper Coast	2.93	9.17	45.57	47.63	126
South Texas	0.23	0.93	11.00	23.49	84
Lower Valley	0.49	2.25	15.63	25.34	102

^{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

