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TX-CW4506

Texas Crop Weather

Released November 6, 2006

For the week of October 30 - November 5, 2006

Agricultural Summary: The Southern Low Plains, South East Texas, Edwards Plateau, South Central, and the Lower Valley all received mostly 0.01 to 0.25 inches of rainfall with 0.5 to 1.5 inches in small sections. The Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and North East Texas mostly received 0.50 to 3.0 inches of rainfall, as isolated showers brought as much as 4.0 inches to some sections. The Northern Low Plains received 0.1 to 1.5 inches of rainfall while the Northern High Plains only received a trace. Most of the remaining areas of the state remained fairly dry.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat progressed in the Northern High Plains as it responded well to recent rains. Producers continued planting the late crop behind corn. In the Southern High Plains, wheat was at a "standstill" as a result of decreased moisture levels. Wheat emerged; however, supplemental rainfall is still needed for good establishment. Dryland wheat and oat producers in South Texas were in much need of additional moisture to get their crops off to a good start following recent planting. The condition of winter wheat and oats was mostly good to fair statewide.

Cotton: Harvest was in full swing in the High Plains. Many producers in the Northern High Plains began stripping their fields after being delayed due to recent rainfall. In the Southern High Plains, recent winds helped drain moisture from the soil which in return allowed for the progression of the cotton harvest. Producers in the Northern Low Plains were able to get back in fields and apply more harvest aids. Most of the cotton in the Southern Low Plains received a terminal freeze. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly good to fair.

Corn: As harvest neared completion, producers finished chopping for silage.

Sorghum: Growers in the Northern Plains began harvest; however activities were limited due to a hard freeze.

Peanuts: In the Southern High Plains, producers continued to dig and thresh despite concerns of freeze damage. Producers have already experienced high yields with a few more weeks left before harvest is completed. Harvest was in full swing in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pumpkin harvest was complete in the Southern High Plains, where demand and sales were at an all time high. In South Texas, spinach progressed but, loopers emerged in many cabbage fields. Producers in the San-Antonio-Winter Garden continued to prepare for planting of fall vegetables and harvested cabbage, cucumbers, and green beans.

Pecans: Crop activities in the Trans-Pecos were slowed down due to the first freeze. Pecans began dropping at a more steady rate in the Edwards Plateau. Harvest continued to wind down in the South Central areas of the state.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Producers began moving stock from Johnson grass fields to avoid potential for prussic acid in the Southern Low Plains. Also, native pasture quality declined due to frost. In the Cross Timbers, stock tanks for livestock water remained low. Recent rains in the Blacklands provided needed moisture, which helped the progression of planted winter pastures. Producers in East Texas continued planting of winter pastures. Cow herd culling decreased in North East Texas due to improved moisture conditions. Cows that recently had calves weaned in the Trans-Pecos began to pick up body weight. In South Texas, many producers were faced with the issue of buffel grass blight, which reduced forage production and quality. Livestock markets were strong with moderate offerings of feeder cattle and cull cows. However, replacement cattle remained scarce. Range and pasture land was mostly fair to poor statewide.

Crop Progress Table – November 5, 2006

Crop	Stage	2006	2005	Average 2001-2005
- Percent -				
Corn	Harvested	99	97	98
Cotton	Bolls Opening	95	94	94
	Harvested	35	39	44
Peanuts	Harvested	71	63	56
Sorghum	Mature	94	93	93
	Harvested	76	74	77
Soybeans	Harvested	96	93	94
Sunflowers	Harvested	82	74	87
Winter Wheat	Planted	89	87	88
	Emerged	76	66	73
Oats	Planted	89	82	86
	Emerged	78	51	--
Pecans	Harvested	13	35	31

Crop Condition Table – November 5, 2006

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2006	2005
Cotton	7	23	29	20	21	52	76
Wheat	14	40	37	7	2	75	59
Oats	6	39	46	7	2	71	33
Range & Pasture	2	13	30	31	24	--	--

^{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 – November 5, 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	18	7	0	5	4	15	16	2	17	25	19	0	0	9	10
Short	33	34	24	56	44	48	39	12	32	46	44	10	0	51	17
Adequate	45	54	74	39	52	37	43	62	51	29	36	67	47	39	73
Surplus	4	5	2	0	0	0	2	24	0	0	1	23	53	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 30 - Nov 5) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Oct 1 - 31) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Nov 5) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jul - Sep) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	1.92	14.33	18.87	108
Low Rolling Plains	0.13	4.38	17.07	23.78	68
North Central Texas	0.72	3.55	22.53	34.00	86
East Texas	0.79	8.16	34.32	45.69	72
Trans Pecos	0.00	1.27	8.28	12.96	83
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.93	14.28	24.01	64
South Central Texas	0.03	2.60	17.21	34.48	60
Upper Coast	0.02	11.27	47.69	47.63	126
South Texas	0.01	0.98	11.06	23.49	84
Lower Valley	0.21	2.53	16.12	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

