United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture
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Agricultural Summary: Most of the state received much needed rainfall after being faced with dry conditions for the last few weeks. Large areas of South Central Texas along with some areas of the Blacklands and South East Texas received the majority of the rainfall with mostly 2.0 to 3.0 inches, as isolated showers brought as much as 6.0 inches of rainfall to limited sections. Most of Central Texas received 0.50 to 1.5 inches of rainfall, as isolated showers brought 2.0 inches to limited sections. The Edwards Plateau and the Cross Timbers received mostly traces to 1.0 inches of rainfall. Unfortunately, large sections of the Trans-Pecos and areas along the Louisiana border remained relatively dry. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in most areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat conditions continued to improve in the Northern High Plains due to the combination of warmer temperatures and recent moisture; additional moisture is still needed for good yield potential. Also in the Northern High Plains, producers continued to apply insecticides to winter wheat. Conditions continued to slowly improve in the Southern High Plains due to warmer temperatures. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Land preparations such as yellow herbicide applications were ongoing in the Northern Low Plains, but many producers are anticipating cotton acres to decrease considerably as corn and sorghum acres increase. Some fields in the Northern Low Plains were being prepared for spring planting.

Corn: Although many producers were faced with dry conditions, planting was in full swing in the Blacklands. Planting began on a limited basis in South Central Texas, but high corn prices may encourage producers to plant more acres.

Sorghum: In the Blacklands, some planting is expected to begin next week. Planting was very active along the Coastal Bend and in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Watermelons were being planted in North East Texas, and producers expect to continue planting on a weekly basis through April. Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. In South Texas, cabbage and carrots continued to be harvested. In the Lower Valley, harvest of sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus continued and preparations continued for onion harvest.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state. Some producers in the Northern High Plains continued to move cattle off wheat fields early. Stock tanks for livestock water improved but still remained low in the Blacklands despite the increased rainfall. Winter pastures in the Blacklands also need more moisture in order to maintain growth and development. In North East Texas, ryegrass conditions improved due to warmer temperatures. Winter pastures in the Edwards Plateau showed minimal signs of growth as more rainfall is needed for continual and increased growth. In both South Central Texas and along the Coastal Bend, pasture conditions continued to deteriorate due to dry soil conditions. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Progress Table – March 11, 2007

Crop	Stage	2007	2006	Average 2002 - 2006
			- Percent -	
Corn	Planted	20	17	15
Cotton	Planted	2	3	2
Sorghum	Planted	15	8	11
Winter Wheat	Headed	2	0	0
Oats	Headed	2	0	0

Crop Condition Table – March 11, 2007

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index [1/]	
	Percent					2007	2006
Wheat	9	36	36	13	6	67	17
Oats	4	22	39	20	15	53	21
Range & Pasture	1	13	35	31	20	--	--

[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 – March 11, 2007 *

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	0	7	11	16	6	20	3	2	15	41	14	7	0	18	10
Short	36	41	24	47	56	46	35	30	59	32	44	45	30	37	23
Adequate	62	48	47	33	37	34	57	58	26	24	39	42	45	44	67
Surplus	2	4	18	4	1	0	5	10	0	3	3	6	25	1	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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/] [2/]

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Mar 5 - 11) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 11) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Mar 11) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.68	0.68	1.48	18.87	150
Low Rolling Plains	1.10	1.10	2.12	23.78	64
North Central Texas	1.00	1.00	4.25	34.00	95
East Texas	0.48	0.54	8.12	45.69	120
Trans Pecos	0.06	0.06	0.99	12.96	110
Edwards Plateau	1.00	1.00	3.09	24.01	87
South Central Texas	1.11	1.11	5.81	34.48	103
Upper Coast	0.91	0.91	7.89	47.63	109
South Texas	0.51	0.51	3.72	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.01	0.01	2.26	25.34	117

[1/] Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

[2/] High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Texas: 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.

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