



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: March 19 - 25, 2007

Agricultural Summary: The Western half of the state received much needed rainfall. The Panhandle received the majority of rainfall with mostly 0.50 to 2.0 inches, as isolated showers brought as much as 3.0 inches to several sections. Most of the Trans-Pecos area received 0.25 to 1.0 inches of rainfall, as the sections along the Mexican border only received traces to 0.01 inches. Accumulations were generally much lower across Central and Eastern Texas. Many areas of Central Texas only received 0.01 inches of rainfall while most of Eastern Texas was relatively dry. Land preparations for spring crops continued with fertilizer and yellow herbicides being applied mainly in the Plains. Supplemental feeding declined considerably across most areas of the state as forage growth increased.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Recent moisture and warm weather continued to improve wheat conditions in the Northern High Plains. Producers continued to pull cattle off wheat fields intended for grain or hay. Also in the Northern High Plains, weed spraying was ongoing. Seasonal rainfall continued to increase soil moisture in the Southern High Plains. Rains were also very beneficial to wheat producers in the Low Plains and Edwards Plateau. More rainfall is still needed in the Cross Timbers and Blacklands in order to ensure a quality harvest. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Some producers in the High Plains began land preparations. Cotton planting resumed along the Coastal Bend and South Texas as conditions allowed. Some producers along the Coastal Bend continued to replant fields due to heavy rains and high winds of the previous week.

Corn: Some producers in the Northern High Plains began land preparations. Planting continued in South Texas, and many producers in South Central Texas will resume as fields dry.

Sorghum: Planting resumed in the Blacklands. Dryland sorghum in South Texas progressed due to recent rainfall, but more is still needed in order to continue growth and development.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Some producers in North East Texas continued to prepare land for planting of sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and beans. Wine grape growers in the Trans-Pecos area began watering via drip irrigation due to the aftereffects of a late freeze last season that severely reduced yield. Cabbage harvest was ongoing in South Texas, and some producers began harvesting onions in the Lower Valley.

Pecans: Pecans remained dormant in the Trans-Pecos area. Some producers trimmed trees and prepared for watering.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures began to “green up” in the Northern Low Plains. Lice infestation was an issue for some producers. Rangeland also began to “green up” in the Southern Low Plains. In the Cross Timbers, pastures showed improvement in response to increased rains and recent fertilization programs. Pastures showed some signs of improvement in the Blacklands, but conditions remained generally dry. In North East Texas, top dressings of winter pastures declined due to rising fertilizer costs. Some livestock in the Trans-Pecos area declined in body condition. Range and pasture conditions continued to progress in South Texas due to increased soil moisture from the previous week. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to poor.

Crop Progress Table – March 25, 2007

| Crop | Stage | 2007 | 2006 | Average 2002 - 2006 |
|--------------|---------|------|------|------------------------|
| - Percent - | | | | |
| Corn | Planted | 53 | 51 | 42 |
| | Emerged | 27 | 27 | 21 |
| Cotton | Planted | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Rice | Planted | 18 | 34 | 20 |
| Sorghum | Planted | 43 | 32 | 27 |
| Soybeans | Planted | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Winter Wheat | Headed | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Oats | Headed | 9 | 17 | 3 |

Crop Condition Table – March 25, 2007

| Crop | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Index ^{1/} | |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|
| | Percent | | | | | 2007 | 2006 |
| Wheat | 16 | 42 | 32 | 7 | 3 | 77 | 25 |
| Oats | 7 | 30 | 39 | 12 | 12 | 62 | 24 |
| Range & Pasture | 4 | 19 | 40 | 23 | 14 | -- | -- |

^{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 25, 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 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| Short | 27 | 25 | 14 | 36 | 39 | 35 | 39 | 19 | 42 | 39 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 23 |
| Adequate | 63 | 52 | 48 | 60 | 51 | 50 | 54 | 71 | 38 | 36 | 83 | 85 | 89 | 77 | 60 |
| Surplus | 9 | 19 | 31 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 7 |

* 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 19 - 25) Accumulation | Month-to-date (Mar 1 - 25) Accumulation | Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Mar 25) Accumulation | 1961-90 Annual Normal | Previous Three Months (Dec - Feb) Percent of Normal |
|---|--|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| High Plains | 1.85 | 2.75 | 3.55 | 18.87 | 150 |
| Low Rolling Plains | 0.84 | 1.97 | 2.99 | 23.78 | 64 |
| North Central Texas | 0.18 | 1.58 | 4.83 | 34.00 | 95 |
| East Texas | 0.00 | 2.01 | 9.59 | 45.69 | 120 |
| Trans Pecos | 0.94 | 1.05 | 1.98 | 12.96 | 110 |
| Edwards Plateau | 1.68 | 2.86 | 4.95 | 24.01 | 87 |
| South Central Texas | 0.04 | 3.04 | 7.74 | 34.48 | 103 |
| Upper Coast | 0.00 | 4.44 | 11.42 | 47.63 | 109 |
| South Texas | 0.09 | 1.38 | 4.59 | 23.49 | 152 |
| Lower Valley | 0.00 | 1.74 | 3.99 | 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

