



Texas Crop Weather

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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For the week of: September 22 – 28, 2008

Agricultural Summary: For the second week in a row, drier conditions were prevalent across most regions of the state. Temperatures also increased in many areas, as there were some reports of highs in the upper 80's. These improved conditions contributed to the maturation of cotton, sorghum, and sunflowers, after progression was slowed from Hurricane Ike a few weeks ago. Some areas of Central Texas received traces to 0.25 inches of rainfall. Higher rain accumulations of mostly 0.25 to 2.0 inches occurred in areas stretching from South Texas to the Lower Valley, as isolated showers brought as much as 4.0 to 5.0 inches to sections along the Gulf of Mexico. However, the remaining areas of the state were relatively dry. Fly population increased and caused considerable discomfort to many livestock. However, condition remained good.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Planting of wheat was in full swing across most areas of the state, as there were some reports of diseases in the crop. Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Despite the increase in cotton maturation from the increased temperatures, many producers are skeptical about future yield potential as more heat units are still needed. There were some reports of defoliation in the Southern High Plains. In the Southern Low Plains, some producers applied harvest aids as bolls continued to open. Harvest was in full swing in the Blacklands, as stripping of fields was ongoing in some sections. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly poor to fair.

Corn: In the Northern High Plains, harvest was ongoing with many reports of good to excellent yields. Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide

Sorghum: Many producers across the state have experienced an increase in armyworm pressure. Due to excess moisture left standing in fields from past storms, harvest was slowed in the Southern High Plains. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly fair to good.

Peanuts: Although the majority of pre-harvesting activities have been completed, some producers across the state continued irrigation of peanuts. Early planted peanuts continued to mature as harvest was ongoing. Peanut condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Pecans: Irrigation of pecan orchards was in full swing in some areas of the state. However, many producers have increased beliefs that this year's crop will not be as good as the previous year. In the Trans-Pecos area, the "pawnee" pecan cultivar has began opening of shucks and should be ready for harvest in the upcoming week.

Rice: Along the Upper Coast, many producers continued field work for a second rice crop as Hurricane Ike basically destroyed a lot of the main harvested crop. Rice condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Cabbage planting began in some areas of South Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock was generally in good condition across the state. However, fly populations have also increased and continued to cause problems. In the Northern Low Plains and Cross Timbers, drought damaged pastures improved due to rainfall received a few weeks ago. However, weed problems and increased armyworm pressure continued to plague many producers in the Cross Timbers. Planting of winter pastures began in East Texas, as some loss of pastures was reported in South East Texas due to flooding from Hurricane Ike. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline in the northern portion of South Texas due to the lack of moisture. However, the southern half of the district was more fortunate as the increased rainfall contributed to the progression of range and pasture land. Stock tank levels in portions of South Texas increased due recent rainfall. Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good.

Weather Information Table ^{1/ 2/}

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous Week (Sep 22 – 28) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Sep 1 – 28) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 – Sep 28) Accumulation	1961 – 1990 Annual Normal	Previous Three Months (Jun – Aug) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.00	2.55	13.95	18.87	103
Low Rolling Plains	0.00	2.59	15.75	23.78	97
North Central Texas	0.00	1.66	19.80	34.00	82
East Texas	0.08	4.39	30.59	45.69	101
Trans-Pecos	0.00	2.38	8.27	12.96	90
Edwards Plateau	0.00	1.43	13.57	24.01	93
South Central Texas	0.25	1.47	15.19	34.48	81
Upper Coast	0.10	3.14	27.58	47.63	88
South Texas	0.46	2.15	15.03	23.49	134
Lower Valley	2.00	6.80	24.02	25.34	185

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.

Crop Progress Table – September 28, 2008

Crop	Stage	2008	2007	Average 2003 – 2007
– Percent –				
Corn	Dent	99	100	100
	Mature	76	99	96
	Harvested	66	87	78
Cotton	Setting Bolls	100	100	100
	Bolls Opening	40	56	58
	Harvested	18	19	21
Peanuts	Harvested	9	2	5
Rice	Harvested	99	98	98
Sorghum	Headed	99	100	99
	Coloring	82	99	87
	Mature	70	89	73
	Harvested	69	86	66
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	90	89	91
	Harvested	76	73	71
Sunflowers	Harvested	43	22	43
Winter Wheat	Planted	42	27	48
	Emerged	11	6	18
Oats	Planted	30	22	37

Crop Condition Table – September 28, 2008

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Index ^{1/}	
	Percent					2008	2007
Corn	4	38	26	16	16	59	83
Cotton	6	16	32	35	11	67	75
Peanuts	8	60	29	2	1	81	88
Rice	16	50	28	3	3	80	66
Sorghum	5	40	36	14	5	67	72
Soybeans	2	33	29	27	9	57	92
Wheat	3	35	57	5	0	70	78
Oats	0	7	59	20	14	47	76
Range & Pasture	7	32	36	17	8	--	--

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 – September 28, 2008 *

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	17	3	2	2	8	16	0	3	18	23	35	0	9	3	30
Short	33	28	10	36	42	26	11	25	27	38	56	20	50	51	3
Adequate	42	66	74	61	48	55	87	67	54	39	9	72	41	42	47
Surplus	8	3	14	1	2	3	2	5	1	0	0	8	0	4	20

* 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.

Cooperating Agencies:
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 Texas Department of Agriculture
 National Weather Service

