



Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office

Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

P.O. Box 528804 · Oklahoma City, OK 73152

(405) 522-6190 · FAX (405) 528-2296 · www.nass.usda.gov/ok

Volume 31, Number 3

Issued March 3, 2008

Soil Moisture Conditions Improve

Soil moisture conditions in some areas improved with substantial rainfall throughout the month of February. Precipitation, including freezing rain and snow, averaged 2.26 inches with the Southeast district receiving the most at 4.29 inches. Although a burn ban is in effect for only a few Panhandle counties, producers across the State remained wary of wildfire dangers. Recent strong winds have increased dryness and chances for wildfires across Oklahoma. Topsoil moisture increased during the month with 72 percent rated in the adequate to surplus range. Subsoil moisture levels also increased with 69 percent rated in the adequate to surplus range.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Month Ending February 29, 2008

Moisture Rating	Topsoil	Subsoil
Very Short	11	12
Short	17	19
Adequate	65	68
Surplus	7	1

Small Grains: The condition of all small grain crops was mostly in the good to fair range. Wheat development was thought to be behind normal in many areas, possibly due to low soil temperatures. Producers continued to top-dress and spray for greenbugs when the weather would allow. **Winter wheat grazed** was at 25 percent, 23 points behind normal. Spring growth and progress for oats and rye were also thought to be behind normal. **Rye grazed** was at 55 percent, 20 points behind normal and **oats grazed** was at eight percent, 21 points behind the five-year average.

Pasture and Range: Seventy-six percent of pastures were in the good to fair range. Cool season grass conditions improved in some parts of the State over the past month. In most areas, grasses are being pastured. Some cattle producers are considering alternative pasture fertilizing options due to increased fertilizer costs.

Livestock: Livestock remained in mostly good to fair condition. Livestock marketings were average. Temperatures continued to fluctuate from one extreme to the other making it tough on cattle operators. With an abundant amount of hay on hand, many cattle producers continued to provide hay to their herds.

Conditions by Percent

Month Ending February 29, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grains -					
Winter Wheat	9	14	33	39	5
Rye	5	6	15	73	1
Oats	17	6	55	13	9
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	0	7	37	51	5
Pasture and Range	5	15	39	37	4

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Crop Progress by Percent
Month Ending February 29, 2008

Crop and Event	2008	2007	5 Year Average
<i>Wheat</i> - Grazed	25	39	48
<i>Rye</i> - Grazed	55	66	75
<i>Oats</i> - Grazed	8	16	29

Weather for Month Ending February 29, 2008: Temperatures ranged from 0 degrees at Alva on Friday, February 1st to 84 degrees at Waurika on Monday, February 4th. Precipitation averaged .58 inches in the Panhandle district to 4.29 inches in the Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 32 degrees at Newkirk on Saturday, February 23rd to 60 degrees at Burneyville Monday, February 4th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data
Month Ending February 29, 2008

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Month Feb 1 to Feb 29	September 1, 2007 to March 2, 2008		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Panhandle	53	22	37	0.58	3.38	-3.01	53
West Central	55	27	40	2.04	8.90	-1.73	84
Southwest	58	29	42	1.53	7.88	-4.13	66
North Central	51	25	37	1.81	10.58	-0.92	92
Central	54	28	40	2.45	12.79	-3.24	80
South Central	59	31	44	1.84	9.63	-8.93	52
Northeast	50	27	38	2.77	17.29	-0.81	96
East Central	54	30	42	2.99	17.22	-4.12	81
Southeast	59	32	45	4.29	19.63	-5.28	79