



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

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March Brought Snow

Last week brought heavy snow to parts of the State. Blankets of snow halted fieldwork for days in reported areas. Temperatures continued to fluctuate with a low of 7 degrees at Seiling and a high of 70 degrees at Ketchum Ranch. Oklahoma averaged 0.77 inches of precipitation last week. Some areas are in desperate need of rainfall while many other areas are in need of steadily warm temperatures. The Panhandle district remains extremely dry, and this cool growing season ranks the seventh driest since 1921. The Southeast district had the highest average temperature for the week at 55 degrees. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions remained nearly the same with 71 percent of the State's topsoil having surplus to adequate and 68 percent of subsoil having surplus to adequate. There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending March 9, 2008

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	12	11	13	11	12	24
Short	17	17	38	21	19	37
Adequate	61	65	47	64	68	37
Surplus	10	7	2	4	1	2

Small Grains: Although the precipitation received in various parts of the State has helped small grain crops, warm weather and sunshine are needed before those crops can develop at a faster pace. Greenbugs were reported in isolated areas with crop insect activity reported as heavy to moderate for 10 percent of the reporting areas. **Winter wheat** jointing was at 13 percent, 10 points behind last year. In the extreme dry areas of the State, the winter wheat crop had not emerged or was just becoming visible. **Rye** jointing was 16 points behind last year at 14 percent while **oats** planted, at 79 percent, was nine points ahead of the five-year average.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparations for most row crops were running well ahead of normal with **corn** at 37 percent, **sorghum** at 17 percent, and **soybeans** at 25 percent complete. Producers located in areas where large amounts of snow had fallen were waiting on the topsoil to dry out before continuing to prepare seedbeds. Seedbed preparation for **cotton** was at 11 percent by week's end.

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range conditions remained mostly in the good to fair range. In some areas, pasture growth was not enough to feed cattle, and operators in those locations were continuing to supply hay to their herds. Some grasses have been slow to emerge this spring.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$105 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$96 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. In areas receiving heavy snow, spring-born calves struggled when temperatures were low. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

Conditions by Percent

Week Ending March 9, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grains -					
Winter Wheat	9	17	33	36	5
Rye	6	10	29	51	4
Oats	5	14	54	20	7
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	1	7	41	47	4
Pasture and Range	5	13	42	35	5

Crop Progress by Percent

Week Ending March 9, 2008

Crop and Event	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Average	Crop and Event	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Average
<i>Wheat</i> - Jointing	13	n/a	23	15	<i>Sorghum</i> - Seedbed Prepared	17	n/a	17	8
<i>Rye</i> - Jointing	14	n/a	30	n/a	<i>Soybeans</i> - Seedbed Prepared	25	n/a	21	8
<i>Oats</i> - Planted	79	n/a	80	70	<i>Cotton</i> - Seedbed Prepared	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Corn</i> Seedbed Prepared	37	n/a	35	20					

Weather for Week Ending March 9 , 2008: Temperatures ranged from 7 degrees at Seiling on Saturday, March 8th to 70 degrees at Ketchum Ranch on Sunday, March 9th. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches in the Panhandle, North Central and West Central districts to 3.26 inch in the Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 38 degrees at Calvin on Thursday, March 6th to 56 degrees at Idabel on Monday, March 3rd.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending March 9, 2008

District	Temperature			This Week	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Average		September 1, 2007 to March 9, 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	50	20	36	0.00	3.39	-3.38	50
West Central	49	21	36	0.00	9.05	-2.12	81
Southwest	51	25	38	0.01	7.89	-4.69	63
North Central	48	22	35	0.00	10.58	-1.52	87
Central	49	25	36	0.16	12.94	-3.82	77
South Central	52	28	39	1.26	11.08	-8.28	57
Northeast	48	25	35	0.37	17.66	-1.27	93
East Central	51	28	38	1.82	19.03	-3.22	86
Southeast	55	30	40	3.26	23.04	-2.89	89