



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 5

Issued March 17, 2008

Some Moisture Is Better Than None

A few light showers scattered across the State last week. Total rainfall received was 0.08 inches; the Southeast district received 0.29 inches while the West Central and the Southwest districts received no precipitation. Some areas of the State experienced summer-like temperatures last week. Altus had the high for the week of 88 degrees on Friday, March 14. Average temperatures increased across Oklahoma with the lowest district average temperature of 48 degrees in the Panhandle while 57 degrees was recorded in the South Central district. Topsoil moisture conditions decreased slightly, but subsoil conditions remained nearly unchanged from the previous week. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending March 16, 2008

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	9	12	10	11	11	25
Short	23	17	32	20	21	38
Adequate	64	61	56	67	64	36
Surplus	4	10	2	2	4	1

Small Grains: If temperatures remain warm, small grain crops should begin to develop faster. **Winter wheat** jointing was at 16 percent, 20 points behind last year, and 14 points behind the five-year average. Producers were continuing to top-dress wheat fields in many areas. **Rye** jointing was six points ahead of normal while **oats** planted, at 91 percent, was eight points ahead normal. A small percentage of oats were jointing.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparations for most row crops were still running well ahead of normal with **sorghum** at 19 percent and **soybeans** at 27 percent. Both **cotton** and **peanuts** were at 25 percent complete. **Corn** seedbed preparation was at 45 percent, 13 points ahead of normal, and a small portion of the State's acreage had been planted by week's end.

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range conditions remained similar to last week and were mostly in the good to fair range. Grasses are expected to green up in areas that received rainfall the previous week.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$104 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$97 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Cattle were removed from wheat pasture in areas where producers intend to harvest wheat for grain. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

Conditions by Percent

Week Ending March 16, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grains -					
Winter Wheat	10	16	33	37	4
Rye	7	14	27	48	4
Oats	7	10	52	24	7
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	1	7	43	46	3
Pasture and Range	5	14	42	34	5

Crop Progress by Percent

Week Ending March 16, 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	16	13	36	30	<i>Sorghum</i> - Seedbed Prepared	19	17	21	14
<i>Rye</i> - Jointing	40	14	43	34	<i>Soybeans</i> - Seedbed Prepared	27	25	25	16
<i>Oats</i> - Planted	91	79	90	83	<i>Peanuts</i> - Seedbed Prepared	25	5	22	13
<i>Corn</i> - Seedbed Prepared	45	37	44	32	<i>Cotton</i> - Seedbed Prepared	25	12	11	22

Weather for Week Ending March 16, 2008: Temperatures ranged from 21 degrees at Vinita on Tuesday, March 11th to 88 degrees at Altus on Friday, March 14th. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches in the West Central and Southwest districts to 0.29 inch in the Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 42 degrees at Newkirk on Monday, March 10th to 61 degrees at Sulphur on Saturday, March 15th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending March 16, 2008

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2008 to March 16, 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	64	33	48	0.02	0.08	-0.76	10
West Central	68	35	51	0.00	0.15	-1.09	12
Southwest	70	38	54	0.00	0.48	-0.69	41
North Central	66	35	51	0.07	0.64	-0.74	46
Central	68	38	54	0.05	1.20	-0.47	72
South Central	72	41	57	0.05	1.97	0.14	108
Northeast	66	35	51	0.21	1.54	-0.35	82
East Central	68	39	54	0.03	2.25	0.14	107
Southeast	70	40	56	0.29	4.34	2.03	188