



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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Spring Storms

Last week brought strong winds, large hail and several tornados. Thunderstorms moved across eastern Oklahoma and the National Weather Service reported a tornado touched down one mile north of Council Hill on Thursday, March 27. There was no severe damage, but golf-ball size hail was reported. Sunday brought more storms to the State. Earlier in the day, strong thunderstorms in the eastern part of the State caused flooding in low areas creating numerous cattle, hay and fence losses. Western and central Oklahoma received large hail and high winds late Sunday night, and more tornados were spotted. No severe crop damage was visible, but several areas lost power. Average rainfall for the State last week was 0.27 of an inch. There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, March 30, 2008

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	11	8	4	11	11	15
Short	14	10	15	20	17	30
Adequate	63	62	65	60	60	53
Surplus	12	20	16	9	12	2

Small Grains: Small grain crops were growing fast, but were in need of additional moisture in many areas. Some hail damage to the State's wheat crop may have occurred during last week's thunderstorms. **Winter wheat** jointing was at 50 percent, a 12 point increase from the previous week, but 20 points behind last year and 16 points behind the five-year average. **Rye** jointing increased three percentage points from the previous week and is 16 points ahead of normal. **Oats** jointing jumped nine points from the previous week to reach 21 percent.

Row Crops: Seedbed preparations for all major row crops were still running ahead of normal with **soybeans** at 37 percent, **peanuts** at 33 percent, and **cotton** at 50 percent. **Sorghum** seedbed preparation was at 23 percent, two points behind last year, but one percentage point ahead of the five-year average. **Corn** seedbed preparation was at 63 percent, seven points ahead of normal while corn planted was at 14 percent, four points behind normal. In isolated areas, large amounts of rainfall may have damaged recently planted corn.

Pasture and Range: Pasture and range conditions remained very similar to last week and were mostly in the good to fair range. With some precipitation and warm temperatures, pastures were continuing to green in many areas. In parts of the State that have received little precipitation, pasture and grass growth has been limited.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$105 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$95 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. In the Panhandle district, cattle producers may have to seek feed alternatives, such as emergency haying, and some may also have to reduce their herds if extremely dry conditions continue. Average livestock marketings were reported last week.

Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, March 30, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grain -					
Wheat	8	13	30	43	6
Rye	4	11	21	60	4
Oats	6	11	44	31	8
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	1	8	40	46	5
Pasture and Range	3	13	39	38	7

Crop Progress by Percent
Week Ending Sunday, March 30, 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	50	38	70	66	<i>Sorghum</i> - Seedbed Prepared	23	21	25	22
<i>Rye</i> - Jointing	72	69	82	56	<i>Soybeans</i> - Seedbed Prepared	37	35	28	30
<i>Oats</i> - Jointing	21	12	23	17	<i>Peanuts</i> - Seedbed Prepared	33	27	39	26
<i>Corn</i> Seedbed Prepared	63	56	65	56	<i>Cotton</i> - Seedbed Prepared	50	42	33	43
Planted	14	6	27	18					

Weather for Week Ending March 30, 2008: Temperatures ranged from 24 degrees at Antlers and Slapout on Monday, March 24th to 91 degrees at Grandfield and Waurika on Thursday, March 27th. Precipitation ranged from 0.0 inches in the Panhandle district to 1.35 inches in the Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 45 degrees at Cookson, Miami, and Weatherford on Monday, March 24th to 70 degrees at Burneyville on Thursday, March 27th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data
Week Ending Sunday, March 30, 2008

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2008 to March 30, 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	67	34	51	0.00	0.23	-1.34	15
West Central	70	42	55	0.26	2.11	-0.22	91
Southwest	73	45	58	0.10	2.43	0.24	111
North Central	66	42	54	0.11	1.70	-0.89	66
Central	70	47	58	0.08	3.37	0.23	107
South Central	71	49	60	0.02	5.70	2.26	166
Northeast	66	45	56	0.17	4.86	1.31	137
East Central	67	47	57	0.31	7.88	3.92	199
Southeast	69	49	59	1.35	11.18	6.84	258