



Oklahoma Crop Weather

Oklahoma Field Office

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Tornadoes Touch Down

Four tornadoes on Wednesday and at least five more on Saturday brought damage to Central and Eastern Oklahoma. The most significant tornado was rated an EF-4 with winds estimated at 165 to 175 mph and had a damage track that stretched 74 miles with 29 of those miles in Ottawa and Craig County, Oklahoma. Crop and livestock damage had been reported in the Northeast, East Central, and North Central districts from hail, flooding, and high winds. Additional damage assessment will begin on May 12, 2008 for the tornadoes that hit on Saturday. With the abundant moisture, insect and disease activity has increased. The Panhandle district received some moisture this week helping irrigated crops but most of the district is still suffering drought like conditions. The State averaged 1.78 inches of rainfall this past week, with the majority of it falling in the Northeast district. There were only 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

Soil Moisture Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2008

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Very Short	11	14	0	13	12	1
Short	12	25	4	11	17	10
Adequate	59	55	55	65	65	76
Surplus	18	6	41	11	6	13

Small Grains: Excessive moisture last week led to lower than average stages of development and disease problems in small grain fields across the state. Flood and hail damage resulted in the loss of a few wheat fields in North Central and Northeastern districts. **Winter wheat** Headed, at 88 percent, was eight percentage points behind the five-year average. Twenty-three percent of the State's wheat was in the soft dough stage, 11 points behind normal. **Rye** heading was complete by weeks end. Fifty-four percent of the rye crop was in the soft dough stage, an increase of 40 points but still ten points behind last year and the five-year average. Eighty-eight percent of the State's **oats** were jointing, two points ahead of normal. Thirty-five percent were headed, an increase of ten points from last week but 16 points behind normal. A few oat fields were reported in the soft dough stage.

Row Crops: Due to inclement weather, fieldwork was delayed but crop conditions remained average. **Corn** seedbed prepared was completed by weeks-end. Corn planted was at 87 percent, five percentage points behind last year, but six points ahead of the five-year average. Sixty-eight percent of corn had emerged by week's end; 11 points ahead of normal. **Sorghum** seedbed prepared was at 77 percent and sorghum planted was at 19 percent, five points behind the five-year average. **Soybeans** seedbed prepared was at 65 percent, and 25 percent of the State's soybeans had been planted. Seedbed prepared for **peanuts** was at 91 percent, one point ahead of last year but one point behind the five-year average. Thirty-five percent of peanuts had been planted and 14 percent had emerged. **Cotton** seedbed prepared was at 97 percent, and 10 percent had been planted.

Hay: Progress and production is behind normal for hay in much of the State due to cool weather. The first cutting of **alfalfa** was at 57 percent, up 16 points from last week but five points behind the five-year average. Seventy-two percent of the alfalfa was rated fair to good. **Other hay** was behind the historical trend with 20 percent of the first cutting completed by week's end. Conditions for other hay were mostly rated as good to fair.

Miscellaneous Crops: Wet and cool weather has delayed strawberry ripening. Light to moderate freeze damage was reported for pecans and fruit trees. Peaches had an average fruit set, and pecans were reported having an average nut set. Watermelons planted were at 50 percent, an increase of 4 percent from the previous week, but 19 points behind normal.

Pasture and Range: Producers were hesitant to fertilize hay meadows and pastures due to the high cost of fertilizer. Grass conditions were still behind normal in some areas due to cool temperatures; however, recent rains had added forage opportunities. Pasture and range conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range.

Livestock: Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$109 per cwt. Prices for heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$102 per cwt. Livestock conditions were rated mostly in the good to fair range. Cattle producers in dry areas were being forced to decrease their herds.

Conditions by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2008

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Small Grain -					
Wheat					
This Week	7	11	28	44	10
Last Week	7	11	30	44	8
Last Year	2	7	18	52	21
Rye	4	8	21	60	7
Oats	5	11	39	41	4
Hay -					
Alfalfa	2	7	24	55	12
Other Hay	3	7	35	51	4
Livestock, Pasture and Range -					
Livestock	1	7	38	47	7
Pasture and Range	3	8	33	48	8
Row Crops -					
Corn	0	2	13	80	5

Crop Progress by Percent

Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 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
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Headed	88	75	94	96	Seedbed Prepared	65	62	57	70
Soft Dough	23	11	34	42	Planted	25	16	21	29
Rye -					Peanuts -				
Soft Dough	54	14	64	64	Seedbed Prepared	91	89	90	92
Oats -					Cotton -				
Jointing	88	86	91	86	Planted	35	23	19	32
Headed	35	25	42	51	Emerged	14	N/A	13	13
Corn					Watermelon -				
Planted	87	81	93	81	Seedbed Prepared	97	94	87	92
Emerged	68	55	77	57	Planted	10	8	8	25
Sorghum -					Alfalfa Hay				
Seedbed Prepared	77	61	53	57	1st cutting	57	41	46	62
Planted	19	13	35	24	Other Hay				
					1st cutting	20	9	24	27

Weather for Week Ending May 11, 2008: Temperatures ranged from 30 degrees at Boise City on Monday, May 11th to 92 degrees at Burneyville on Saturday, May 10th. Precipitation ranged from 0.88 in the Panhandle district to 3.07 inches in the Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 59 degrees at Cookson and Foraker on Sunday, May 11th to 75 degrees at Erick on Tuesday May 6th and Durant on Saturday, May 10th.

Mesonet Temperature and Precipitation Data

Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2008

District	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2008 to May 11, 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	78	46	62	0.88	2.02	-2.65	43
West Central	77	52	64	1.44	6.10	-0.64	91
Southwest	78	55	66	1.97	7.72	1.03	115
North Central	75	51	63	2.06	6.92	-0.40	95
Central	76	54	65	2.54	11.81	3.04	135
South Central	78	56	66	1.41	11.21	1.91	121
Northeast	75	54	64	3.07	16.91	7.29	176
East Central	75	54	64	1.50	17.24	6.73	164
Southeast	76	53	65	1.15	20.25	9.03	180