

Texas Crop Weather Report

Week of March 5-11. Most of the state received much needed rainfall after being faced with dry conditions for the last few weeks. Large areas of South Central

Texas along with some areas of the Blacklands and South East Texas received the majority of the rainfall with mostly 2.0 to 3.0 inches, as isolated showers brought as much as 6.0 inches of rainfall to limited sections.

Most of Central Texas received 0.50 to 1.5 inches of rainfall, as isolated showers brought 2.0 inches to limited sections.

The Edwards Plateau and the Cross Timbers received mostly traces to 1.0 inches of rainfall.

Unfortunately, large sections of the Trans-Pecos and areas along the Louisiana border remained relatively dry. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in most areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat conditions continued to improve in the Northern High Plains due to the combination of warmer temperatures and recent moisture; additional moisture is still needed for good yield potential.

Also in the Northern High Plains, producers continued to apply insecticides to winter wheat. Conditions continued to slowly improve in the Southern High Plains due to warmer temperatures.

Statewide, wheat and oat condition was mostly fair to good.

Cotton: Land preparations such as yellow herbicide applications were ongoing in the Northern Low Plains, but many producers are anticipating cotton acres to decrease considerably as corn and sorghum acres increase.

Some fields in the Northern Low Plains were being prepared for spring planting.

Corn: Although many producers were faced with dry conditions, planting was in full swing in the Blacklands.

Planting began on a limited basis in South Central Texas, but high corn prices may encourage producers to plant more acres.

Sorghum: In the Blacklands, some planting is expected to begin next week. Planting was very active along the Coastal Bend and in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Watermelons were being planted in North East Texas, and producers expect to continue planting on a weekly basis through April.

Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau.

In South Texas, cabbage and carrots continued to be harvested.

In the Lower Valley, harvest of sugarcane, vegetables, and citrus continued and preparations continued for onion harvest.

Livestock, Pasture And Range Report

Supplemental feeding continued across most areas of the state.

Some producers in the Northern High Plains continued to move cattle off wheat fields early.

Stock tanks for livestock water

improved but still remained low in the Blacklands despite the increased rainfall.

Winter pastures in the Blacklands also need more moisture in order to maintain growth and development.

In North East Texas, ryegrass conditions improved due to warmer temperatures.

Winter pastures in the Edwards Plateau showed minimal signs of growth as more rainfall is needed for continual and increased growth.

In both South Central Texas and along the Coastal Bend, pasture conditions continued to deteriorate due to dry soil conditions.

Statewide, range and pasture condition was mostly fair



Emily Mahalite, a sixth grader at Garwood Jr. High and member of Rice Consolidated FFA, was awarded a \$10,000 San Antonio Livestock Exposition (S.A.L.E.) Scholarship at this year's event. Emily was awarded the scholarship for exhibiting the 2007 Champion Market Spot Barrow at the show.



Emily Mahalite, a sixth grader at Garwood Jr. High and member of Rice Consolidated FFA, also won an award in the Heavyweight Maine Anjou Class at the San Antonio Livestock Exhibition. Pictured are from left to right, Stephen Mahalite, Mary Mahalite, Jordan Mahalite, Emily Mahalite and Beau Skinner.

Texas Photographer To Appear At Nesbitt

The Nesbitt Memorial Library will host another in its series of author dinners, this one with the award-winning photographer Wyman Meinzer, on Tuesday night, March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

Meinzer will speak on his extensive work as an outdoor photographer across the entire state of Texas and in locations in Mexico, Montana, Canada, and Alaska. Copies of some of his books will be available for purchase.

To date, Meinzer's photographs have been featured in nineteen books, on more than 250 magazine covers, and in more than fifty different magazines, among them Smithsonian, Time, National Geographic, and Texas Highways. The January 2007 issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife featured his "Photo Tour of Texas," a selection of some of his favorite photographs from the last twenty years.

He was raised on a ranch near the town of Benjamin in Knox County, Texas.

While earning a degree in wildlife management from Texas Tech University, he developed

an interest in photography and photojournalism.

His first published photographs appeared in National Wildlife and Texas Parks and Wildlife magazines in 1979.

Acclaim quickly followed. In 1985, he was named one of the top five outdoor photographers in America by Sports Afield.

In 1997, Governor George W. Bush and the 75th Legislature named Meinzer the "State Photographer of Texas." Among the many other awards Meinzer has received are two from Texas Tech, the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the Department of Range and Wildlife Management in 1987 and the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

He also received the John Ben Sheppard Jr. Award from the Texas State Historical Foundation in 1996 and the National Literary Award with author Andrew Sansom in 1997.

Among Meinzer's books are two distinguished volumes he produced with Sansom, Texas Lost: Vanishing Heritage (1995) and Texas Past: Enduring Legacy (1997).

In 1999, Meinzer published

Texas Sky, with an introduction by the important and revered Texas author John Graves.

Meinzer's other books include The Roadrunner (1993), Coyote (1995), Texas Quail (1998), Texas Seasons (1999), and Texas White-tails (2002), the last three with Ray Sasser. Sasser also wrote the text and Graves the introduction to Wyman Meinzer: Eyes on Texas (2000), a book featuring Meinzer's handpicked selections from his work.

In 2001, Meinzer's first black and white book, Contemporary Ranches of Texas, with text by Lawrence Clayton, was released by University of Texas Press, and his vivid study of the panhandle's hypnotic canyons, Canyons of the High Plains, was released by Texas Tech University Press. Later books include Rivers of Texas (2002) and Texas Hill Country (2003), both with Graves, Desert Sanctuaries: Chinatis of the Big Bend (2003), Great Lonely Places of the Plains with Walt McDonald (2003), and 6666: Portrait of a Texas Ranch (2004). Last year, Meinzer's photographs were paired with writings by the novelist Sarah Bird, the poet Naomi Shilhab Nye, and others, in Between Heaven and Texas, another celebration of the Texas sky.

As always, seating will be limited. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the library until noon on Monday, March 19. After that, no further tickets will be sold. The meal costs \$10 for Friends of the Nesbitt Memorial Library; \$15 for others. The library is located at 529 Washington Street in Columbus.

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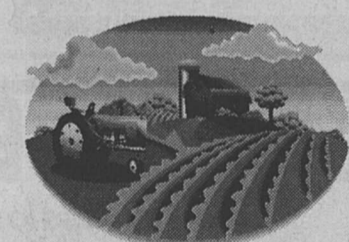
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