

Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary

Warmer weather was prevalent across most regions of the state with continued rains in the Southern areas of the state.

Wheat harvest neared completion in most areas of the state as weather permitted.

Soil moisture was adequate in most areas of the state; however, a surplus of soil moisture was reported in South Central Texas and the Upper Coast.

South Texas received the most moisture with 1.0 to 6.0 inches of rainfall.

South Central and South East Texas received 0.50 to 4.0 inches of rainfall.

The Panhandle received 0.01 to 2.0 inches of rainfall.

North East Texas received 0.01 to 4.0 inches of rainfall.

The Trans-Pecos area received the least amount of rainfall with 0.01 to 0.50 inches of rainfall.

Wet soils continued to cause harvesting problems in South and East Texas.

Range conditions were good due to the previous moisture and warmer conditions.

Haying and baling continued in most areas as weather permitted.

Livestock remained in good to excellent condition in most areas of the state.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat harvest

was completed in most areas in the Northern High Plains and Cross Timbers.

Drier conditions allowed wheat harvest to continue as it neared completion in the Blacklands.

Statewide, wheat condition was mostly good to excellent.

Cotton: Warmer and drier weather continued to help cotton progress in the Northern High Plains.

Cotton continued to progress as it was starting to bloom in some areas of the Northern Low Plains and Southern High Plains.

Cooler temperatures slowed cotton development in the Edwards Plateau.

Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: Corn looked good in the Northern High Plains as irrigation continued in some areas.

Corn continued to mature in the Blacklands as many producers were preparing to harvest.

Corn was struggling in some areas of South Central Texas due to wet weather conditions.

Statewide, corn condition was mostly good to excellent.

Sorghum: Sorghum was progressing well in the High Plains.

Sorghum was beginning to color in some areas of the Southern Low Plains.

Excessive soil moisture made harvesting difficult in some areas of South Central Texas.

Sorghum conditions were mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Peach harvest was good in the Cross Timbers despite some reports of brown rot.

Peach harvest was concluded in most areas of North East Texas.

Some disease problems were reported in vegetables due to excessive moisture and humidity in North East Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock were in good condition in North East Texas, but flies and mosquitoes were becoming a concern.

Cattle continued to be in good shape across most areas of the state.

Hay cutting and baling continued in the Low Plains, Blacklands, and North East Texas as weather permitted.

Excessive soil moisture prevented some hay baling in the Edwards Plateau.

Continued wet weather halted hay harvest and production in some areas of South Central Texas.

Range and Pasture conditions were good in most areas of the state due to the recent rains and warmer weather.

Statewide, range and pasture conditions were mostly good to excellent.

Over My Shoulder

A monthly review of the livestock market by J.D. Sartwelle, Jr.

July was...well; July was another in a long line of wet months.

The big difference between last year and this year is the fact that we have had several months in a row that has been wet.

If your country isn't healed up yet, you'd be one of the very few and it would sure "nuff" be time to go to church or do something different.

This big ole state hasn't seen it this good all at the same time for a long time.

The big lament is that drought lingers on both coasts and many others are not able to share in what we have.

The month was eventful as markets were good or very good; grain was driven down; futures were supportive to our causes, i.e., cattle up, grain down; slow but hopefully steady progress was made on the export front while the 07 Farm Bill and its mandatory COOL provisions were debated all month in and out of the Ag Committee.

In the feed-yards and at the packing plants, the live cattle and the meat trade did their usual summer thing; that is, there wasn't much eventful activity except for posturing back and fourth after a good July 4 clearance.

Fed cattle that began the

month on a fairly strong note at \$90 went up a dollar, down a dollar and finished about the same but with good feelings about future inventories and being current on the ready cattle.

During the month, good production news over shadowed bad news relative the corn crop and by months end corn futures as well as farther out fed futures turned favorable to the cowboys and made every one feel a little better.

The big news on the political front was that the House Ag Committee passed a farm bill and sent it to the floor for debate.

The big news to cowboys in the 2007 Farm Bill was major revisions to the Mandatory County of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) requirements due to become effective Sept. 30, 2008.

Cool heads hammered out changes that if passed, will ease the impacts on covered meats, require fewer labels and classes of products, and dramatically lessen the record keeping requirements from producers to packers.

The new provisions will basically call for three classes of products:

For animals born, raised, slaughtered in the U.S., product will be labeled "Product of the U.S."; animals imported for direct slaughter and born in another country and raised in the U.S. must be labeled "Product of County X and the U.S."; Ground meats will be allowed to use a "may contain" provision that will list the specific country or countries or all of the possible counties of origin of the product.

The bill must survive floor debate, be reconciled with a Senate version and then signed by the President.

Keep in mind, MCOOL does not apply to poultry nor does it apply to HRI (Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional trade).

How do you like that for fairness?

On the export front, slow, steady progress seems to be occurring with the Japanese and the Koreans.

It will be ongoing for a long time to come.

In the country, rains slowed hay-making and cattle working.

Rainfall on an almost daily basis during the month hampered all outside activities.

Market runs were about two thirds of last years numbers and at first of month saw a good many smaller, younger, lighter weight calves in the total mix that seemed to turn heavier as the month progressed.

The month started with almost no activity the first week due to

the July 4 holiday but each week afterwards seemed to add a dollar or two or three to make the calf trade end the month several dollars higher.

Slaughter cows and bulls did the same thing as available numbers simply went south.

The pork complex fared well for a hot summer month; Midwest prices continued at the low to mid fifty dollar level as a good bit of product went into storage to be seen later.

Unusual weather is making a banner production year for fewer numbers of cows and calves in the pasture but hurting hay-feed quality for our use later on.

It sure is hard to get everything lined up just like we want it.

First things first, we have to have the moisture to make it all happen.

We sure have had a bunch and feel for those in the Southeast or the Southwest who can't buy any but would paying dearly if they could.

We've been there.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Two Lawsuits In District Court

Two lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the past week.

On July 25, a suit for partition of property was filed by Marie Stavinoha, Harvey Stavinoha Jr. and Har-mar Ltd. Partners against Mary Lou Will.

The suit seeks partition of four tracts of land that it states are jointly owned by all of the parties.

On July 31, Sand Express Limited Partnership filed suit against Melt Solutions, LLC, in a dispute over payment on account, with the amount in dispute, \$13,550.

Marriage License

Jose Juan Tovar and Gloria Areli Rubio, July 26.

Divorces Filed

Josephine Medina v. Joel E. Medina, July 26.
Shanandoah Gail Huebner v. Chad Allen Huebner, July 26.

Juvenile

Continued from front page Probation Department \$2.2 million to help buy or lease the facility, according to the newspaper.

The money would come from assets forfeited by criminals.

Harris County officials estimated it would cost them \$6 million to \$7 million a year to operate the facility, which would house about 144 inmates.

Officials said the facility would need a staff of 125, most of whom would come from the surrounding area.

Colorado County Precinct 4 Commissioner Darrell Gertson, in whose precinct the facility is located, confirmed that Harris County officials were interested in the juvenile facility.

"They sort of fell in love with it," he said.

Gertson emphasized that the Harris County commissioner's court would have to approve a lease or purchase and a contract would have to be negotiated and approved by Colorado County.

He said he was hopeful an agreement would be worked out to reopen the facility.

The facility was closed in 2006 after state officials withdrew inmates and county officials were unable to attract enough juvenile inmates to keep it in operation.

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Clinic) as the new entrance. We apologize for this inconvenience. No taxpayer monies will be used for this renovation, so if anyone would like to donate to the Volunteers to help with this cost, you may do so by sending it to the RMC Employee Volunteers, PO Box 277, Eagle Lake, TX 77434.

RCISD Summer office hours announced

Rice CISD Administration summer office hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, CLOSED. Regular office hours resume Monday, August 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Time to order lamb and goat tags

Time is fast approaching for 4-Her's and FFA students to make decisions on how many ear tags they will need for the 2008 Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb Validation and Texas 4-H/FFA Goat Validation Programs for the major livestock shows. The tags will cost \$9 each. In order to get our orders in on time we ask that you please turn in your orders to the Extension Office by August 27. Tags must be paid for at the time of order.

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