

# Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary for the week of Aug. 13 to 19

Hot and dry conditions continued throughout the state until Tropical Storm Erin produced heavy rains across areas of Central and South Central Texas towards the end of the week.

Weather conditions continued to help cotton produce blooms and set bolls across most areas of the state.

Corn continued to progress in some areas of the state as harvest was in full swing in most of the Panhandle, the Blacklands, and Southern Texas until Tropical Storm Erin produced heavy amounts of rainfall and halted harvest.

Soil moisture was adequate in most areas of the state.

The Low Plains and South Central Texas received the most rain as a result of Tropical Storm Erin with 1.0 to 8.0 inches of rainfall.

South Texas and the Lower Valley received 0.01 to 0.50 inches of rainfall.

The Blacklands and North East Texas received 0.01 to 0.25 inches of rainfall.

The Northern High Plains and Trans-Pecos received the least amount of rainfall with 0.01 to 0.25 inches of rainfall.

Ranges and pastures continued to be in good condition.

Hay cutting and baling was in full swing across most areas of the state.

Harvest came to a halt in areas of South Central Texas, Edward Plateau, the Low Plains and Cross Timbers as Tropical Storm Erin produced heavy rains in the area.

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

### Field Crops Report

**Cotton:** Conditions were favorable for cotton acreage in need of heat units as cotton continued to develop in the High Plains.

Increased heat units helped cotton continue to progress as it was blooming and setting bolls in some areas of the Southern Low Plains.

Cotton was doing well in the Blacklands due to higher temperatures.

Cotton was developing nicely along the Upper Coast as bolls were starting to open.

Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: Harvest was in full swing in the Northern High Plains.

Harvest continued in the Northern Low Plains until heavy rains from Tropical Storm Erin

arrived later in the week.

Harvest continued to progress in the Blacklands and the Edwards Plateau.

Tropical Storm Erin effectively ended corn harvest in most parts of South Central Texas.

Statewide, corn condition was mostly good to excellent.

Sorghum: Sorghum was progressing well as it was starting to bloom in most areas of the High Plains.

Harvest began in most areas of the Blacklands.

Harvest continued in South Central Texas with high yields reported, but the quality was a concern due to excessive wet weather.

Harvest was in full swing in South Texas.

Sorghum conditions were mostly fair to good statewide.

**Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report**  
Pecans continued to shed nuts in the Cross Timbers and Blacklands with scab and fungus reported in some areas.

### Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock were in good condition across most areas of the state.

Hay cutting and baling was in full swing across most areas of

the state.

Hay harvest came to a halt in areas of South Central Texas, Edward Plateau, the Low Plains and Cross Timbers as Tropical Storm Erin produced heavy rains late in the week.

Ranges and Pastures remained in good condition with lots of green forage in most areas of the state.

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

## EAGLE LAKE WEATHER REPORT

Information Courtesy of Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Eagle Lake

Date	Temp (H/L)	Rainfall(in.)
Mon. 8-13-07	98/73	0.00
Tue. 8-14-07	98/74	0.00
Wed. 8-15-07	95/73	1.63
Thu. 8-16-07	84/73	0.80
Fri. 8-17-07	87/76	0.07
Sat. 8-18-07	90/75	0.04
Sun. 8-19-07	92/74	0.05

## Cattle On Feed Down Six Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.78 million head on Aug. 1, down six percent from a year ago.

According to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office, the estimate was unchanged from the July 1 level.

Producers placed 390,000 head in commercial feedlots during July, down 19 percent from a year ago, and down 20 percent from the June 2007 total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 470,000 head during July, down 2 percent from last year and down one percent from last month.

On July 1, there were 2.38 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 86 percent of the state's total.

The number on feed across the

area was down five percent from last year and down three percent from the July total.

July placements in the Northern High Plains totaled 348,000 head, down 17 percent from the June total.

Marketing's were down two percent from last month to 406,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 10.3 million head on Aug. 1.

This inventory was five percent below Aug. 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.62 million head, 17 percent below July 2006.

July placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 360,000 head; 600-699 pounds totaled 312,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 445,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 505,000 head.

Marketing of fed cattle during July totaled 2.0 million head, three percent above 2006.

## Drink, Drive, Go To Jail Says DPS

The Department of Public Safety will have all available troopers on Texas roadways during the upcoming Labor Day weekend targeting speeders, seat belt violators and drunk drivers.

DPS - along with law enforcement throughout the state and nation - will increase patrols from Friday, Aug. 31 through Monday, Sept. 3, in an effort to reduce highway deaths and injuries.

During this time frame the

DPS will participate in Operation C.A.R.E. - Combined Accident Reduction Effort and Operation Holiday.

Operation C.A.R.E. - focuses on strict enforcement of speed limits, alcohol and drug related offenses, and occupant restraint laws.

Operation Holiday - allows the assignment of other DPS uniformed personnel to supplement highway traffic enforcement.

DPS troopers will participate in another nationwide crackdown known as "Drink. Drive. Go to Jail."

This campaign begins Friday, Aug. 17 to Monday, Sept. 3

"The Labor Day period tends to have a large number of DWI fatalities," said Senior Trooper Gary Pflughaupt. "Because Labor Day is traditionally the last weekend of the summer, more people are

out celebrating - creating potentially dangerous situations on our roadways."

DPS wants to remind motorists that state law makes driving while intoxicated with a passenger younger than 15 a state jail felony, punishable by a maximum of two years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

This will result in a \$3,000 surcharge (paid over three years), if an offender is convicted of driving while intoxicated.

"Never consume alcohol and then plan to operate a motor vehicle", stated Pflughaupt.

"Our job is to make sure the highways are safe for everyone, so drivers who insist on drinking and driving - will go to jail."

Motorists who become disabled on the highway can use the statewide stranded motorist hotline, 1-800-525-5555, to call for assistance.

## Farm Bureau Meeting On Sept. 11

The Colorado County Farm Bureau extends an invitation to all members to attend its annual meeting scheduled for Sept. 11 (Tuesday night), according to Marv Ulbricht, county president.

The meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall with the social hour beginning at 6 p.m.

A chicken-fried steak dinner will be served to members prior to the meeting.

Dinner tickets, bought in advance, will be \$5 per adult and children under 10 years of age eat free.

Deadline to purchase tickets is Sept. 6.

After that, the cost will be \$8 per person.

Tickets may be ordered by calling 979-732-2383, or can be picked up at the Farm Bureau office.

It is of great importance that we continue to take steps to improve the effectiveness of our organization in representing agriculture.

Our role in the process includes adopting policies for the coming year. In addition, we plan to elect directors.

Voting delegates will be selected to represent our county at the state convention to be held in Waco, Dec. 1-3.

Board members with expiring terms are: Gerald Heintschel, Richard Willette, Russell Trefny, Larry Hillmer, Leon Hattermann, Marv Ulbricht, Donald Hoenigshaus and W.J. Kleimann.

The policy development committee is currently accepting suggestions for resolutions.

Members are encouraged to contribute their thoughts to the committee at this time.

All recommendations will be considered in drafting tentative resolutions to be voted on at the annual meeting.

A strong agriculture is vital to the health of our nation.

Help us show agriculture's importance!

## NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Marsha Thomas at 979-234-5807 or Ms. Ruby Johnson at 979-234-3567 for ticket information. All proceeds will go to "The Malcom Thomas Scholarship Foundation."

### Mt. Sinai to hold anniversary Aug. 26

On Sunday August 26 at 3 p.m. Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries will celebrate their first church anniversary. Rev. L.D. Smith of the new Mt. Sinai Outreach Community Church of Houston will be our guest speaker. We invite everyone to come and share in this historical, spirit filled occasion. We are located at 5588 Hwy. 90. See you there. Rev. Thomas Kuykendall-Pastor.

### 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.

### Immaculate Conception bazaar Sept. 2

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is having their Bazaar and homecoming on September 2. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 1390 Highway 90 West in Sealy. A barbecue lunch consisting of beef, pork, sausage, chicken and all the trimmings will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. Ray Krenek on the dulcimer will provide music inside the hall from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and the Texas Sound will provide music under the pavilion before and after the live auction. The auction will begin at 1 p.m. consisting of antiques, quilts, baked goods, and other great items. There will also be a drawing consisting of 15 items that will be held at the end of all the festivities.

### Library seeking nominations

The Wintermann Library Board of Directors is taking nominations for the Eula and David Wintermann Wall of Honor. Nominees should be those who have taken part in the accomplishments and/or support of the library. The inductee this year will be presented at the Study Club Auction on Sept. 22. If you are interested in nominating someone, stop by the library and pick up an application. Nominations must be made before Sept. 11.

### Entries needed for fair parade

The Colorado County Fair Parade Committee is seeking entries for this year's fair parade. The parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 in downtown Columbus. You can pick up entry forms at the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau and at Potter's Western Store. For more information call Kim Dyer at 979-732-8385 or Melissa Kilpatrick at 732-8781.

### Chamber dinner is Sept. 22

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual dinner on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Community Center. The meal will consist of fried chicken with two sides. Serving will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Drive thru or dine at the Community Center. For advance tickets call any chamber member or pageant winner.

### Multi-Year reunion planned

Rice High School Classes of 1976-81 are planning a reunion to be held in Eagle Lake on Saturday, October 27, beginning at 3 p.m. Information letters will be going out soon to those whose addresses we have. If you do not receive a letter but would like to participate, contact GayeLynn Thomas 979-234-5693 or gayelynntomas@sbcglobal.net or Lisa Hoffman 979-758-3933 or thierry@elc.net for more information. Also, we'd like to hear from any graduates of RHS Classes of 1971-75, 82 and 83 who would like to be a part of this event.

## Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 8.7 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearings will be held on August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 a.m. and August 31<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom-Courthouse 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Columbus, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: A.G. Jamison, Doug Wessels, Herbie Helmcamp, Darrell Gertson  
AGAINST: None  
PRESENT and not voting: None  
ABSENT: Tommy Hahn

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	6.46% (increase)	or	_____ % (decrease)
Debt service	1.62% (increase)	or	_____ % (decrease)
Total expenditures	5.45% (increase)	or	_____ % (decrease)

### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value of all property	\$ 1,540,508,346	\$ 1,675,546,746
Total appraised value of all new property	\$ 20,453,490	\$ 30,109,990
Total taxable value of all property	\$ 1,405,174,578	\$ 1,532,218,290
Total taxable value of all new property	\$ 18,244,665	\$ 27,378,540

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$ 1,785,000.00

### Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ 0.4189	per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$ 0.4300	per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ 0.0111	per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	2.65 %	increase OR _____ % decrease

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

### Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 79,866.00	\$ 86,236.00
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 16,722.00	\$ 18,424.00
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 63,144.00	\$ 67,812.00

### Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$ 264.51. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$ 291.59. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$ 27.08 or a decrease of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in taxes.

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