

# Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office released the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of August 2 to 9.

### Agricultural Summary

The northern and western parts of the state observed up to three inches of rainfall while the eastern part of the state received up to one and a half inches of moisture.

The central and southern

parts of the state received little to no moisture.

Wheat and oat field preparation took place in the northern part of the state.

In the Northern High Plains, irrigated cotton and corn progressed well.

Corn harvest was active and cotton progressed well in the Blacklands.

Pecans were passing from the

water to gel stage in the Trans-Pecos.

In South Central Texas, cotton matured rapidly due to the hot, dry weather.

Cotton bolls were opening in South Texas.

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized parts of the state.

Recent rainfall improved range and pasture conditions in the northern part of the state.

Range and pastures in the southern part of the state continued to remain dry.

Topsoil moisture was mostly very short to adequate across the state.

### Field Crop Reports

#### Small Grains:

Wheat and oat field preparation took place in the northern part of the state.

#### Cotton:

In the Northern High Plains, cotton progressed well due to the recent rainfall, however, cotton suffered from recent hail damage in localized areas.

Cotton bolls were opening in the Plains and South Texas.

In the Blacklands, cotton progressed well.

In South Central Texas, cotton matured rapidly due to the hot, dry weather.

Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

#### Corn:

Worms were present in corn in the Northern High Plains, however, producers controlled damage.

Corn harvest was active in the Blacklands and South Central Texas.

Recent rainfall and hot temperatures caused corn to mature rapidly in the Edwards Plateau.

Corn condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

#### Sorghum:

Grain sorghum progressed well due to cooler temperatures from the recent rainfall in the Northern High Plains.

Grain Sorghum headed out in the Southern Low Plains.

Grain sorghum suffered in the Blacklands due to hot, dry weather.

In the Coastal Bend, grain sorghum harvest neared completion.

Sorghum condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

#### Peanuts:

Peanuts progressed well in the Southern Low Plains.

Pegging was active in South Texas while peanuts were under heavy irrigation.

Peanut condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

#### Rice:

Rice condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

#### Soybeans:

Soybean condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

### Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report:

Producers in the Northern High Plains prepared to harvest sunflowers.

#### Pecan:

Pecans were passing from the water to the gel stage in the Trans-Pecos.

Pecans continued to progress well in the Edwards Plateau.

### Livestock, Range and Pasture Report:

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized parts of the state.

Stock tank levels across the northern part of the state were adequate, however, tank levels in the southern part of the state were at critical levels.

Livestock herd liquidation

continued in localized parts of the state.

Recent rainfall improved range and pasture conditions in the northern part of the state. Range and pastures in the southern part of the state continued to remain dry.

Range and pasture condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

## Over My Shoulder

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

July started and ended just about like every month so far this year.

Weather in Texas being a typical mixed bag, mostly warmer than usual with some having adequate moisture while others had nothing.

Weather across the country has been the same situation except that excessive moisture has hurt some about as bad as excessive dry here at home.

Live markets seemed to be higher most of the time than what conditions seem to warrant while red meat production is up and domestic and export demand is faltering.

The economy, considerable activity in the halls of congress, and other distractions seemed to be in the news every day and occupy considerable time and thought from all Americans.

July weather in Texas saw more frontal activity than usual that seemed to exclude the vast majority of central and south Texas while the panhandle, northern parts, and East Texas ended the month wet in many cases and in good shape in others.

At end of month, 32 million acres or 18.7% of Texas was considered to be in "exceptional drought", the most critical drought stage.

In that area, crop production is almost non-existent and liquidation of cowherds have or will take place if no moisture arrives quickly.

Some have said that a saving grace to the state is that ample hay production has taken place in many areas and if hay is to move North to South, at least it will require a shorter haul than usual.

Along with the lack of moisture has been record setting low and high temperatures in the country.

Without thinking, we all know where the record high temperatures have been.

The fed market reflected a lessening in demand throughout the month and ended the month at the \$82.00 level in Texas about where it started. Competitive meats and shifts in beef demand

from less eating out and more purchases at the grocery store has taken demand pressure off of middle meats and put it on the end meats.

One saving grace to the fed market is that offal credits have risen 43% from March to July, being worth about \$2.43/cwt on the fed cattle.

With lowering grain prices, fewer available feeder cattle have maintained a good demand both in the yearling and the calf trade.

On the political front, NAIS saw little or no activity after the house rejected funding for it and the senate as well.

Late month the house passed the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009.

The bill provides for FDA to have an expanding role in food safety.

At least, our Ag lobby was able to remove many of the very objectionable parts of the bill including giving FDA authority for "on farm" inspection of livestock. Late month saw members of the house Ways and Means Committee petition the US Trade Rep to seek agreements with Japan to expand the present 20 month old rule on cattle to include beef from older cattle.

The Congress tackled other, bigger fish, and some say that it might be a good thing that they'll be on vacation for the month of August.

Lastly for this month; the study that received widespread front-page coverage for several weeks two years ago that linked red meat with cancer has now made the back pages as the authors acknowledge that mistakes were made in the report.

Such is our lot in life.

In the country, many areas experienced the premature selling of calves and culling of cows because of dry conditions while other areas did not experience anything other than the routine marketings of ready calves.

For the most part, the calf trade held steady, firm, and higher for the month while cows and bulls were mostly steady-stronger, then weaker after moving through big kill numbers at the first of the month.

Dairy buyout Number Eight by the cooperative for cooperatives is supposed to take place sometime in August.

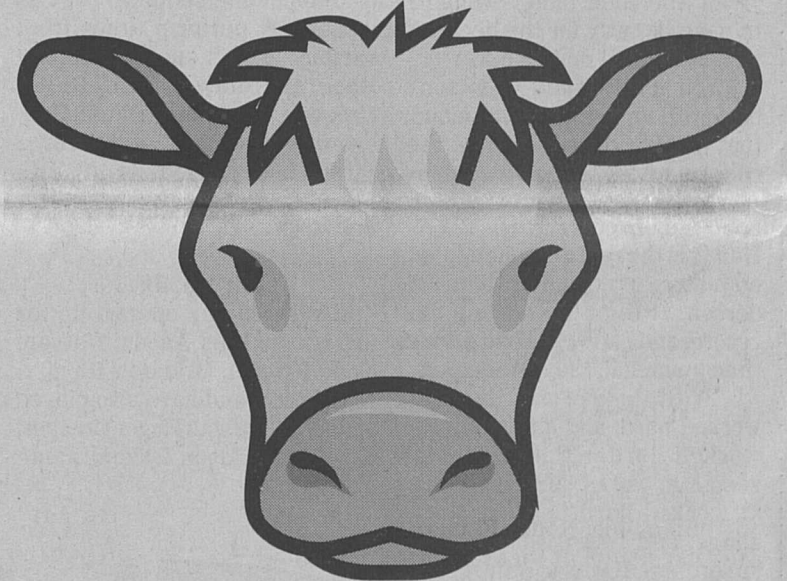
Continuation of rainy activities at the end of the month will certainly be appreciated if it doesn't rain straight down for a month.

Any moisture is better than no moisture even if all it does is remind us that it does come from above.

Cooler temperatures wouldn't hurt anyone's feelings also.

Maybe August will be the last of the extreme temperature.

Come on August.



**YOU CAN JUMP FOR JOY OVER THESE USED CAR DEALS!**

**2008 Mercury Milan** what a car like new only .....\$18,988

**2008 Ford Explorer** great family car .....\$18,988

**2008 Ford Escape** like new .....\$18,988

**2008 Ford Cargo Van** great work truck .....\$15,988

**SPECIAL OF THE WEEK** **2002 Ford Mustang** Convertible .....\$5,998

**2008 Merc Grand marquis** great family car .....\$16,988

**2008 Ford Mustang** convertible .....\$19,988

**2008 Ford F-150** extended cab 2 to choose.....\$19,988

**2008 Ford F-150** crew cab 2 to choose.....\$21,988

**2008 Chevrolet Aveo** great student car .....\$9,788

**2008 Chevrolet Impala** .....\$13,988

**2007 Dodge Caliber** great back to school car .....\$12,988

**2008 Dodge Ram 1500** like new .....\$17,988

**Call or stop by for more great deals because ...**

*The hat is where it's at!*

**1-800-443-1492 • 979-732-2353**

COLUMBUS SEALY HOUSTON WEST I-10 EAST

**Exit 698 • 4860 110 Columbus, TX**

**www.tommievaughnautocountry.com**

## Connect to Customer Choice

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for more than 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. That's why we would like to share some low or no-cost tips with you on how to keep cool during these hot summer months.

One of the best ways to lower higher electric bills is to shop around for a less expensive retail electric provider (REP). Finding different offers can be done quickly and efficiently.

- 1) Visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) electric choice website at [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org). If you don't have access to a computer, you can call the PUCT's Electric Choice hotline at 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (797-4839).
- 2) Use the information you receive to contact different REPs to collect more information on various services and offers. Also contact your current REP at the number listed on your electric bill for other offers that may be available. Ask about contract terms and prices and be sure to look at the REPs' Electricity Facts Labels to make a good comparison.

### Need some help?

Customers having trouble paying their electric bills and wishing to avoid disconnection should discuss their concerns with their current retail electric provider. All REPs are required to offer deferred payment plans to eligible customers who express an inability to pay. Many REPs also offer balanced billing plans, which allow eligible customers to pay an average amount each month year-round.

Additionally, many community action agencies may be able to help with electric bills or energy efficiency programs. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 1-800-525-0657, e-mail at [info@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:info@tdhca.state.tx.us) or visiting one of the following websites.

[www.aeptexas.com](http://www.aeptexas.com)

**Connected to You. Connected to Texas.**



## Ag Department Market Recap

For the week ending Aug. 8, feeder cattle price trends at Texas auctions were mixed, from \$4 lower per hundredweight to \$4 higher compared to a week earlier.

Fed cattle prices were \$1 lower on a decline in beef prices and a growing backlog of available cattle in feedlots.

Cotton prices were higher amid prospects for improved global demand.

Grain prices ended the week lower due to a stronger dollar, lower crude oil prices and favorable growing weather in the Midwest.

As for futures markets, cotton

and lumber were higher, while feeder cattle, finished cattle, wheat and corn were lower.

Central and South Texas received little or no rainfall again last week, while other areas of the state recorded up to three inches of rain.

Cotton progressed well in areas that have received rain, but some hail damage was noted on the High Plains.

Bolls are opening on 13 percent of the acreage with the crop reported in mostly fair to good condition.

Corn is 48 percent harvested, well ahead of the normal 30 per-

cent by this date. Grain sorghum harvest is also ahead of normal at 53 percent complete.

Wheat field preparations are underway in many areas.

Rice is in mostly fair to good condition with 28 percent of the acreage harvested.

Pasture conditions are highly variable depending on rainfall received with ratings from very poor to good.

Topsoil moisture was rated short to adequate in many areas, but was mostly very short in the Upper Coast, South-Central and South Texas regions.

## Appraisal District Reviews Coming

The Texas Legislature, in House Bill 8, gave Texas Comptroller Susan Combs the responsibility of reviewing the performance of each county appraisal district at least once every other year.

In the off years, the comptroller's office will conduct a property value study to determine the taxable value in each school district.

The new law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2010.

"We look forward to working with appraisal districts in our reviews and value studies to ensure fair and accurate appraisals," Combs said.

"Texas taxpayers expect and

deserve efficient service and uniform appraisals so property taxes are shared equally among taxpayers."

The reviews will cover each appraisal district's governance, taxpayer assistance, operating and appraisal standards, procedures and methods.

If an appraisal district fails to comply with the comptroller's recommendations within one year, the Board of Tax Professional Examiners or a successor agency must take action necessary to ensure compliance.

HB 8 also changed the comptroller's school district property value study from an annual study to a study that must be conducted

once every two years, except when the study finds invalid values for a school district, at which time a study will be conducted annually until the values are valid.

The requirement for a biennial — rather than an annual — study will free up comptroller resources to do a more intensive property value study in approximately half the school districts each year.

The bill created a nine-member comptroller's property value study advisory committee to consult with the comptroller prior to the adoption of study rules.

The Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives will appoint one member from the House; the Lieutenant Governor will appoint one member from the Senate; and the Comptroller will appoint two members representing appraisal districts, two members representing school districts and three members who are Texas taxpayers or have expertise in school district taxation or ratio studies.

**Subscribe To The Headlight**  
Subscriptions Make Great Gifts