

# Crop Progress

Released March 31, 2003, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Crop Progress" call Terry P. O'Connor at (202) 720-4288, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Note: These data are preliminary and will be released after 4:00 p.m. each Monday, except for holidays. See tomorrow's Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin for final progress and condition estimates.

## Rice: Percent Planted, Selected States <sup>1</sup>

State	Week Ending			1998-2002 Avg.
	Mar 30, 2003	Mar 23, 2003	Mar 30, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	2	NA	0	0
CA	0	NA	0	0
LA	23	NA	32	29
MS	0	NA	0	1
MO	0	NA	0	0
TX	37	NA	42	28
6 Sts	7	NA	8	7

<sup>1</sup> These 6 States planted 100% of last year's rice acreage.

## Oats: Percent Planted, Selected States <sup>1</sup>

State	Week Ending			1998-2002 Avg.
	Mar 30, 2003	Mar 23, 2003	Mar 30, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
IA	0	NA	11	12
MN	0	NA	0	0
NE	10	NA	13	22
ND	0	NA	0	0
OH	1	NA	5	11
PA	2	NA	9	4
SD	1	NA	0	3
WI	0	NA	1	4
8 Sts	1	NA	3	4

<sup>1</sup> These 8 States planted 53% of last year's oat acreage.

## Sorghum: Percent Planted, Selected States <sup>1</sup>

State	Week Ending			1998-2002 Avg.
	Mar 30, 2003	Mar 23, 2003	Mar 30, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	2	NA	0	1
CO	0	NA	0	0
IL	0	NA	0	0
KS	0	NA	0	0
LA	0	NA	2	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
NE	0	NA	0	0
NM	0	NA	0	0
OK	0	NA	0	0
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	29	NA	34	31
11 Sts	10	NA	12	11

<sup>1</sup> These 11 States planted 97% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Crop Condition  
by Percent, Selected States**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	1	10	27	49	13
CA	0	0	5	45	50
CO	6	13	33	45	3
ID	0	1	14	81	4
IL	0	2	26	55	17
IN	0	2	32	56	10
KS	4	14	38	37	7
MI	0	10	40	40	10
MO	1	4	30	56	9
MT	2	9	58	26	5
NE	8	20	41	30	1
NC	3	15	38	43	1
OH	2	4	20	56	18
OK	0	4	25	58	13
OR	0	17	54	27	2
SD	6	17	41	31	5
TX	6	15	36	37	6
WA	2	9	40	42	7
18 Sts	3	11	35	43	8
Prev Wk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prev Yr	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2001 planted acres.

## Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

**Survey Procedures:** Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data that are collected each week from early April to the end of November. The Crop progress and condition surveys are non-probability surveys that include a sample of more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through their stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaire on Friday or early Monday morning and submit it to the Agricultural Statistics Service's office in their State by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of the time that the questionnaire is completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced into the projections for weekend progress and crop condition changes. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, which has significantly reduced this projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories that are used as reporting guidelines are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website at: [www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/cwterms.htm](http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/cwterms.htm).

**Estimating Procedures:** Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Statistical Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

**Revision Policy:** Progress and condition estimates in the "**Crop Progress**" report are released at 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the "**Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin**" National Summary that is released at 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are then subject to revision the following week.

The next "Crop Progress" report will be released after 4 p.m. ET on April 7, 2003.

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