

...Texas scholarships

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TFB's S.M. True Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award offers \$20,000 total to a deserving student who is at least a junior pursuing an undergraduate degree in an agriculture major.

The Rural Veterinary Scholarship is new this year. Four scholarships valued at \$10,000 each will be awarded. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a second or third-year veterinarian student at Texas A&M University or Texas Tech University with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. The applicant must also plan to enter a rural and/or food animal practice in Texas after graduation.

TFB also has made scholarship funds available to first-year and enrolled students attending Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through the Texan Success Scholarship. Another \$10,000 is available through the "helping hands" scholarship, which is meant to help students with unexpected costs that are not usually covered by traditional scholarships. TSTC scholarships are available at <https://www.tstc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/>.

"These scholarships and awards are another way county Farm Bureaus and Texas Farm Bureau invest in the future of our community, state and Texas agriculture," John Ross said.

TFB scholarship applications are due online by March 1, 2022, and County Farm Bureau scholarships are due to the county office by April 1, 2022.

Applications and requirements for state awards are available at <https://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities>.

Plan to ease port congestion, help ship U.S. ag goods

By Julie Tomascik
TFB Editor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced plans to help ease port congestion and increase capacity at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, California.

The agency will fund 60% of the start-up costs of adding a new 25-acre container yard. USDA also will help cover additional movement logistics at \$125 per container.

"This partnership with the Port of Oakland builds on our aggressive approach to addressing challenges within the supply chain and sends a strong signal that we are committed to working across the administration and with state, local and private partners to mitigate complex port capacity and congestion issues and to keep American agriculture on the move," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said.

Vilsack noted in a Monday event that the agency hopes to

expand this opportunity to other ports along the coast.

"Supply chain issues are a big concern for farmers and ranchers, and we appreciate USDA's actions to ease congestion at several ports. [This] announcement about increasing capacity at the Port of Oakland, our third largest port for containerized waterborne agricultural products, is welcome news," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "It's an important step to ensure America's farmers and ranchers have a reliable path for exporting the rice, beef, pork, fruits, vegetables, almonds and many other agricultural goods grown in the United States."

Bottlenecks at some of the busiest U.S. ports have delayed agricultural commodity exports. The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021, first introduced in August 2021, aims to update federal regulations for the global shipping industry and stop foreign ocean carriers from "unreasonably" declining to ship U.S. agricultural commodities from U.S. ports.

"Further steps must be taken to prevent carriers from sending empty containers out of U.S. ports, such as the passage and signing of the Ocean Shipping

Reform Act," Duvall said. "Port congestion is one piece of a larger puzzle and AFBF will continue working with industry, federal agencies and Congress to untangle the complicated web of supply chain issues facing farmers and ranchers."

On This Day in Texas History

February 11, 1842

On this date in 1842, the first and only mutiny in the Texas Navy began. The schooner San Antonio was anchored in the Mississippi River at New Orleans. Although the high-ranking officers were ashore, the sailors and marines were confined aboard because of fear of desertion. But they evidently got drunk on smuggled liquor and, under marine sergeant Seymour Oswald, began a mutiny in which Lt. Charles Fuller was killed. Eventually, Commodore Edwin Moore brought some of the mutineers to trial. Three were sentenced to flogging, and four were hanged from the yardarm of the Austin on April 6, 1843. Oswald himself escaped from jail in New Orleans and was never brought to justice.

February 11, 1850

On this day in 1850, the

Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway was chartered, marking the beginning of the railroad age in Texas. The BBB&C was the first railroad to begin operating in the state, the first component of the present Southern Pacific to open for service, and the second railroad west of the Mississippi River. Gen. Sidney Sherman was a member of the group that received the charter. Construction began from Buffalo Bayou to Harrisburg in 1851; the first locomotive, which was named for Sherman, arrived in 1852; and the first twenty miles of track, from Harrisburg to Stafford's Point, opened in 1853. Although Harrisburg did not develop into the major city on Buffalo Bayou as a result of the construction of the BBB&C, the railroad otherwise fulfilled the expectations of its early backers. The first railroad in Texas, now a part of Southern Pacific's transcontinental Sunset Route between New Orleans and Los Angeles, handles heavy freight traffic as well as Amtrak's Sunset Limited west of Houston.

February 11, 1915

On this day in 1915, the state legislature passed an

appropriations bill to pay for expenses incurred by former governor Oscar Branch Colquitt for "chicken salad and punch," among other items, during his term in office. An ensuing legal battle, known as the "Chicken Salad Case," lasted until June 1916, when Justice William Seat Fly ruled that the legislature could appropriate for fuel, water, lights, and ice necessary for the Governor's Mansion, but not for groceries and other personal needs of the governor. Colquitt's successor as governor, Jim Ferguson, had continued to purchase groceries with state money under this appropriation. Ferguson testified under oath that he would repay the state if the Supreme Court decided against him, but failed to do so. In September 1917 the High Court of Impeachment held that Ferguson was guilty of a misapplication of public funds. The Court of Impeachment, by a vote of twenty-five to three, removed Ferguson from office and made him ineligible to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under the state of Texas. Ferguson continued to exert considerable political influence, however, through the political career of his wife, Miriam (Ma) Ferguson.

Water Weekly

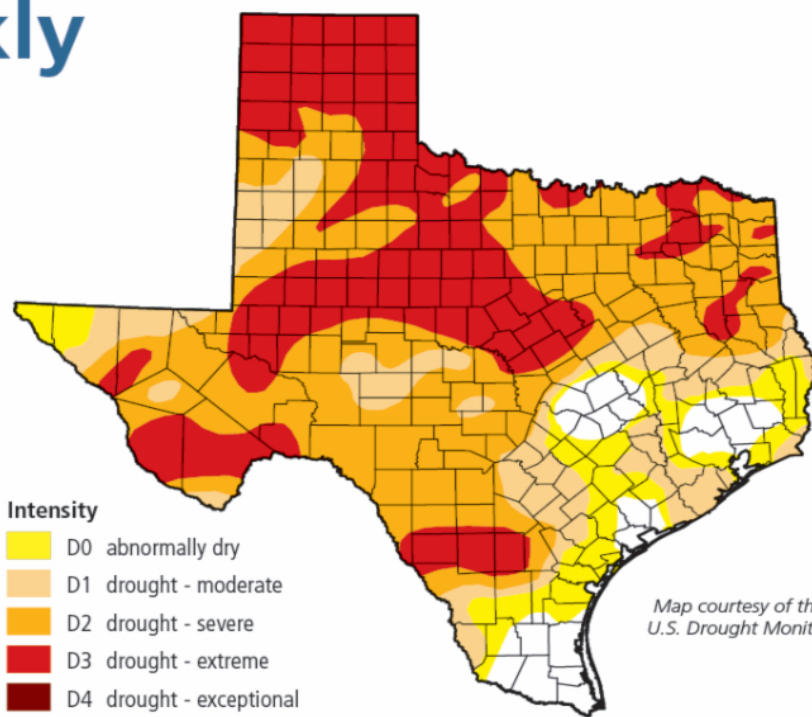
For the week of 02/07/22

Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of February 1 shows a decrease in the area of the state impacted by drought, the first decrease in 12 weeks. Additional rainfall in early February, primarily in Central and East Texas, should improve conditions further by the next report.

Drought conditions

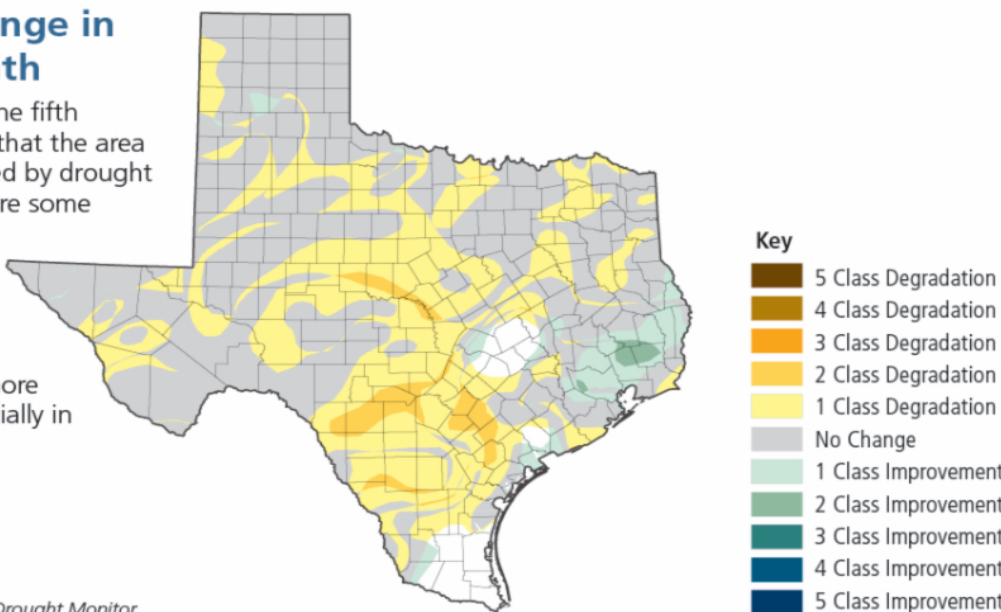
- ◆ 84% now
- ◆ 87% a week ago
- ◆ 33% three months ago
- ◆ 45% a year ago



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

Drought change in the last month

January 2022 was the fifth consecutive month that the area of the state impacted by drought increased. There were some improvements in the last month, mostly in East Texas, while other parts of the state experienced more degradations, especially in Central Texas.



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

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