

there were a lot of concerns like lions left to die in traps, bycatch, the negative images of trapping and spillover into other species.

“The people who oppose the trap check said, ‘Well, if you add the lions like you do the fur bearers, where do you stop?’ Fitzsimmons said.

There were also concerned with the additional work required to check traps every 36 hours.

Fitzsimmons said there’s a clear consensus to ban canned hunts of mountain lions.

“That can be done through the prohibition of the holding of a live lion, but for some reasons, mountain lions were exempted from an earlier statute regarding canned hunting in the legislature,” Fitzsimmons said.

After the Texas Mountain Lion Stakeholder Working Group’s presentation, TPWD was asked to come back to the commission with a plan for data collection, additional science and how that could lead into a permanent management plan.

Record drop expected for 2024 farm income

Farmers can expect the largest recorded year-to-year dollar drop in net farm income in 2024. Income is estimated to be nearly \$40 billion lower this year compared to 2023, down more than 25%.

Net farm income is the profit farmers see after paying for operating expenses.

Two major factors are impacting income forecasts—lower prices paid to farmers for crops and livestock and increased costs for supplies.

While these are early estimates and they could change throughout the year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture anticipates a decrease in net farm income, dropping from \$156 billion in 2023 to \$116 billion in 2024.

“Farm families are suffering through the same economic hardships as all families in America,” American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duvall said. “High inflation is making the food farmers grow more expensive to produce and is cutting into the income farm families rely on to pay bills, provide an education for their children and reinvest in their community. We urge Congress to focus on bringing costs down and passing a new farm bill, both of which will help ensure farmers can continue meeting the needs of a growing nation.”

A year-to-year drop of this magnitude parallels a recent decline in general farmer sentiment as lower expectations set in for commodity prices in 2024.

“Cash receipts for crop and livestock sales are expected to move from \$507 billion in 2023 to \$486 billion in 2024 for a loss of \$21 billion (4%). The forecast decline in crop receipts explains nearly 80% of this difference, signaling a weaker incoming year for row crop prices,” AFBF economists said in a Market Intel report.

Production expenses remain stubbornly high, as well. They are estimated to increase 4%, or \$16.7 billion, in 2024, totaling \$455 billion in 2024.

The largest percent increases between 2023 and 2024 are expected between marketing, storage and transportation (up 12%), the cost of labor (up 7.5%) and the cost of pesticides (up 7.2%).

“With an early expectation of significant revenue declines, though, it becomes all the more important for producers to have clarity on rules that impact their businesses’ability to operate and for producers to have access to comprehensive risk management options,”AFBF economists said.

Water Weekly

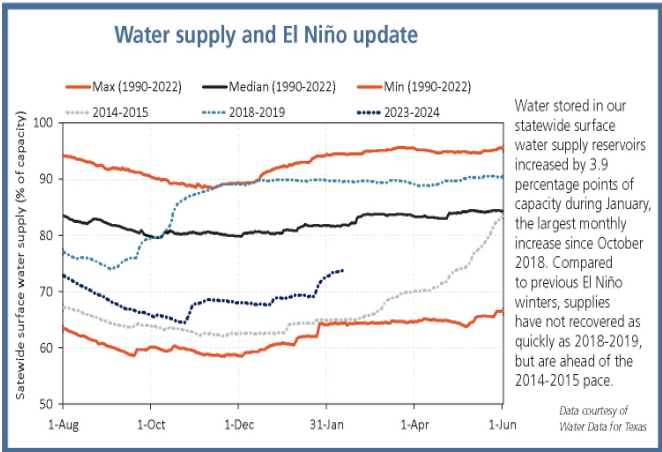
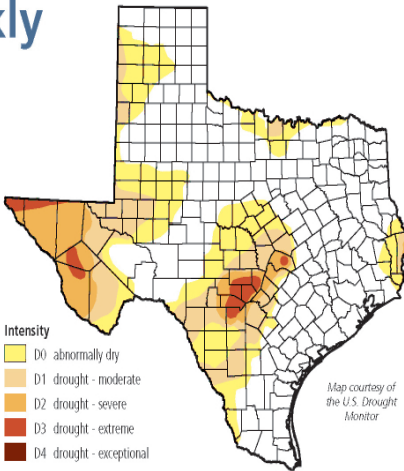
For the week of 02/12/24

Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of February 6 shows continued improvement in the last week, particularly in the eastern half of the state. Drought area has reached its lowest value statewide since mid-October 2021 but remains entrenched in Central and West Texas.

Drought conditions

- 21% now
- 23% a week ago
- 65% three months ago
- 53% a year ago



Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB’s Office of Water Science and Conservation.

Bryan McMath, Government Relations | bryan.mcmath@twdb.texas.gov | 512-463-7850
Media Relations | MediaRelations@twdb.texas.gov | 512-463-5129

www.twdb.texas.gov

Stay connected: [Facebook icon] [Twitter icon] [Instagram icon] [YouTube icon] [LinkedIn icon]



ORDER OF ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

An election is hereby ordered to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 for the purpose of:
Electing School Trustees (date)

Applications for a place on the ballot shall be filed by: Friday, February 16, 2024
(A deadline is required to be stated in the order for a special election.)

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at

Coke County Clerks Office - Coke County Courthouse - Robert Lee, TX

(location)

8

5 Mon. - Thurs.

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 Fri p.m. beginning on Monday, April 22, 2024
(date)

and ending on Tuesday, May, 2, 2024
(date)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Jennifer Burdett, Coke County Clerk

(Name of Early Voting Clerk)

Coke County Courthouse - 13 E 7th

(Address)

Robert Lee, TX 76945

(City)

(Zip Code)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on

Tuesday, April, 23, 2024

(date)

Additional early voting will be held as follows:

Location	Date	Hours

Issued this the 17th day of January, 20 24

Member

Signature of Presiding Officer

ORDEN DE ELECCION PARA OTRA SUBDIVISION POLITICA

Por la presente se ordena que se llevará a cabo una elección el sabado, el 4 de mayo, 2024 con el propósito

de: elegir fideicomisarios escolares (fecha)

Solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta serán presentadas por: viernes, el 16 de febrero, 2024
(De acuerdo con la orden de elección especial se requiere una fecha límite)

La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en

Coke County Clerks Office Coke County Courthouse - Robert Lee, TX

(sitio)

entre las 8 5 lunes-jueves
8 de la mañana y las 1 viernes de la tarde empezando el lunes, el 22 de abril, 2024
(fecha)
y terminando el martes, el 2 de mayo, 2024
(fecha)

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán enviarse a:

Jennifer Burdett, Coke County Clerk

(Nombre del Secretario(a) de Votación Adelantada)

Coke County Courthouse - 13 E 7th

(Dirección)

Robert Lee, TX 76945

(Ciudad)

(Zona Postal)

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de las horas de negocio el martes, el 23 de abril, 2024
(fecha)

La votación adelantada además se llevará a cabo de tal manera:

Sitio	Fecha	Horas

Emitida este día 17th de enero, 20 24

Miembro

Firma del Oficial que Preside