

**...USDA Report**

*(Continued from previous page)*

Use of structural practices increased, largely in combination with conservation tillage as farmers increasingly integrated conservation treatments to gain efficiencies. Structural practices include terraces, filter and buffer strips, grassed waterways and field borders.

Irrigation expanded in more humid areas, and as irrigators shifted to more efficient systems and improved water management strategies, per-acre water application rates decreased by 19% and withdrawals by 7 million-acre-feet.

Nearly 70% of cultivated cropland had conservation crop rotations, and 28% had high-biomass conservation crop rotations.

Because of this increased conservation, the report estimates:

Average annual water (sheet and rill) and wind erosion dropped by 70 million and 94 million tons, respectively, and edge-of-field sediment loss declined by 74 million tons.

Nearly 26 million additional acres of cultivated cropland were gaining soil carbon, and carbon gains on all cultivated cropland increased by over 8.8 million tons per year.

Nitrogen and phosphorus losses through surface runoff declined by 3% and 6%, respectively.

Average annual fuel use dropped by 110 million gallons of diesel fuel equivalents, avoiding associated greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents.

**About the Report**

For this report, farmer survey data was collected from 2003-2006 and again from 2013-2016. NRCS evaluates conservation practice adoption through the CEAP Cropland Assessment, using a combination of farmer surveys, land use and soils information, along with resource models. CEAP project findings are used to guide USDA conservation policy and program development, along with assisting conservationists, farmers and ranchers and other land stewards with making sound and science-based conservation decisions.

**Next Steps**

The report also revealed that cropping patterns have changed over the years in response to climate, policy, trade, renewable energy and prices, presenting a nutrient management challenge. Improving the timing and application method of nutrients can allow production demands to be met while reducing the impacts of crop production on the environment. NRCS plans to continue its focus on nutrient management conservation practices and strategies with vigorous outreach efforts to farmers and further engagement with partner groups to adjust to these changing trends.

**More Information**

For more information on CEAP, visit the CEAP webpage or view this multimedia story offsite link image .

USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity and natural resources including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these

challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including State, local and Tribal governments.

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers offsite link image are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. On farmers.gov, you can create a secure account offsite link image , apply for NRCS programs,

electronically sign documents and manage your conservation contracts.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all

communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

## MILLICAN PLUMBING

**Veteran Owned**      **Senior, Military & First Responder Discount**

*Matthew Millican, Owner*      **(325) 301-7515**  
**M-42008 Licensed and Insured**      **14637 W Hwy 158**  
**millicanplumbing@gmail.com**      **Robert Lee, TX 76945**

## FLOYD C. PETITT INSURANCE

**LIFE • HEALTH • GROUP HEALTH**  
**LONG TERM CARE • ANNUITIES**  
**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS**  
**AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL**

**WE PUT YOU FIRST!**

**YOU'RE NOT A NUMBER TO US, BUT A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY!**

**(325) 223-1563**  
**5002 KNICKERBOCKER**  
**SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76904**  
[floyd@floyddepetitinsurance.com](mailto:floyd@floyddepetitinsurance.com)

# Water Weekly

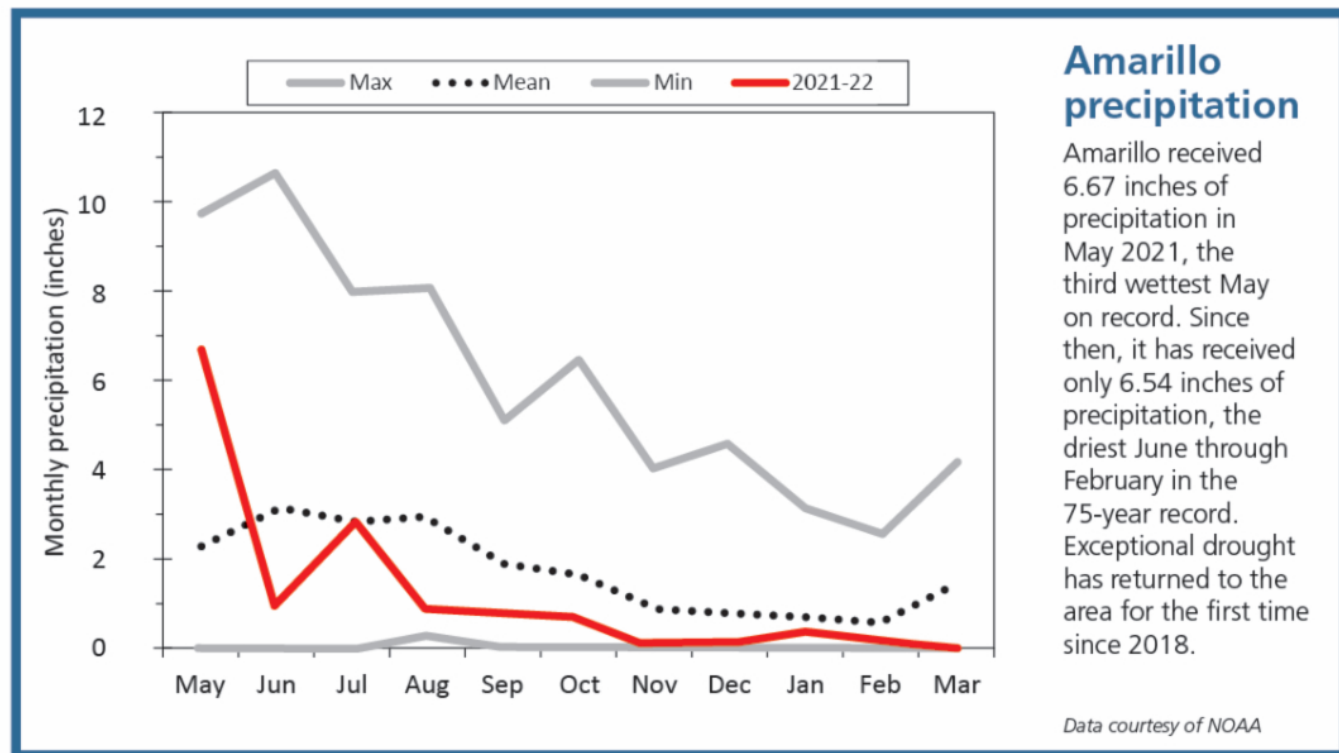
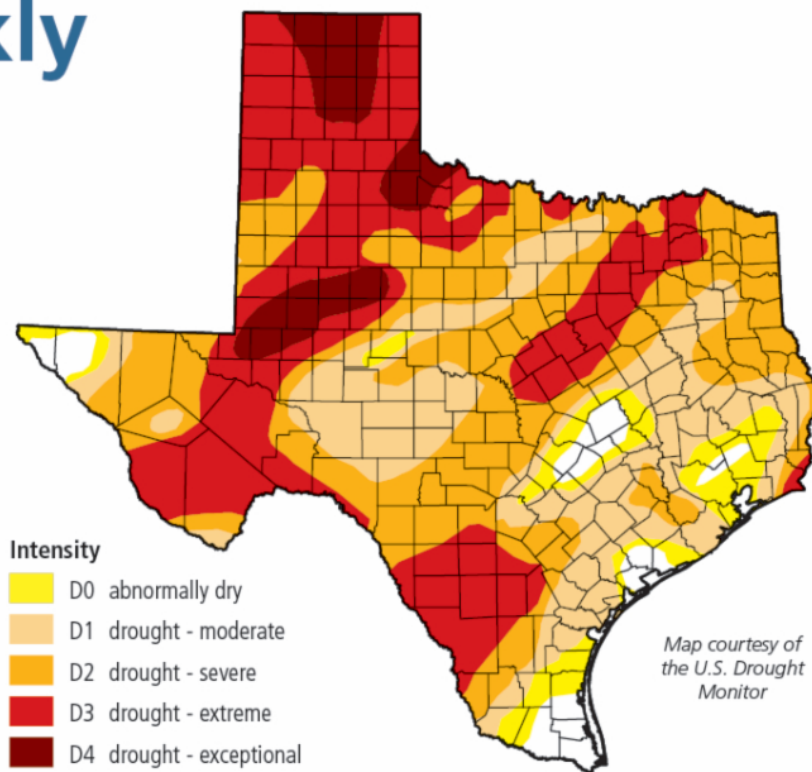
*For the week of 03/14/22*

## Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of March 8 shows the cumulative effect of months with below-average precipitation for most of the state. Exceptional drought has returned to the state for the first time since June 2021. Moderate or worse drought jumped to its largest area since 2013.

### Drought conditions

- ◆ 90% now
- ◆ 81% a week ago
- ◆ 55% three months ago
- ◆ 62% 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, Governmental Relations | [bryan.mcmath@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:bryan.mcmath@twdb.texas.gov) | 512-463-7850  
 Kaci Woodrome, Media Relations | [kaci.woodrome@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:kaci.woodrome@twdb.texas.gov) | 512-475-1720