

...Hunting regulations changes

(Continued from previous page)

Establish a mule deer antler restriction in Terrell County within the Trans-Pecos.

Establish a veterans and active-duty special waterfowl hunting season to occur concurrently during youth-only season in all duck zones.

Modify the West Zone for goose hunting to open a week earlier than current goose hunting regulations.

Remove the daily bag limit restriction (two) on hooded mergansers.

Combine the separate merganser and duck daily bag limits into a single aggregate daily bag limit of six per day.

Reauthorize the requirement to possess a Federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit while hunting that species due to an administrative error.

Close the turkey season east of IH-35 in Ellis County to support ongoing restocking efforts along the Trinity River.

Hunters hitting the field in the upcoming season should make note of these changes and follow all regulations set for species, tagging, bag limits, counties, season dates and means and methods. Hunters can check the Outdoor Annual for complete and updated regulations. Information currently in the Outdoor Annual reflects last season's information.

More information regarding season dates for the 2022-23 hunting seasons can be viewed on the TPWD website as of May 13.

U.S., Japan agree to increase beef safeguard trigger level

The U.S. and Japan agreed to increase the beef safeguard trigger level under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said.

The new three-trigger safeguard mechanism will allow U.S. exporters to meet Japan's growing demand for high-quality beef and make it difficult for Japan to impose an emergency tariff hike on beef imports to protect its domestic market, long a sore point for U.S. meat exporters who have been seeking greater access.

"This agreement is a great win for our two countries that ensures American farmers and ranchers can continue to meet Japan's growing demand for high-quality U.S. beef," USTR Katherine Tai said.

The agreement includes a new three-trigger mechanism by which all three triggers must be hit in order for Japan to implement the safeguard and impose a higher tariff. The three triggers are:

Imports from the U.S. must exceed the original beef safeguard trigger level under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement;

The aggregate volume of beef imports from the United States and the original signatories of the Comprehensive and

Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) must exceed the CPTPP beef safeguard; and

Imports from the United States must exceed the total amount of beef imports from the United States during the previous year.

Both governments will work to finalize the text of the agreement reflecting the new trigger levels and complete their respective domestic procedures.

Japan raised its "safeguard" duty on U.S. beef to 38.5% from 25.8% in March of last year for 30 days after U.S. beef imports exceeded the safeguard trigger.

"This is a positive development for America's farmers and ranchers. It allows for greater market-based growth in U.S. beef exports to Japan and reduces the probability of higher Japanese tariffs being imposed on U.S. goods," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said. "America's farmers and ranchers have beef products that can compete anywhere in

the globe and this announcement will allow them to demonstrate just that."

In 2021, the U.S. was the top beef-exporting country in the world, with global sales of beef and beef products valued at over \$10 billion.

Exports of U.S. beef to Japan totaled almost \$2.4 billion in 2021.

TFB establishes wildfire relief fund

The state's largest general farm organization has established a West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund to assist farmers and ranchers impacted by recent fires.

Wildfires have swept across Central and West Texas this month, burning over 86,000 acres. Dry, windy conditions fueled the outbreaks. Some of those fires are still not fully contained.

The Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund will collect and distribute monetary

contributions only.

"Although we don't know the full extent of the damage caused by the fires, we do know the losses will be staggering," TFB President Russell Boening said. "Farm Bureau members have always stepped up to help their neighbors in need, and this wildfire relief fund will collect tax-deductible donations to meet the needs in affected areas."

Fires devoured pastureland and farmland, as well as livestock, homes, barns and equipment. Farmers and ranchers sprang into action - moving cattle, packing up families and building fire breaks. They worked alongside state agencies to try to contain the fires.

Other efforts are ongoing by various organizations to collect donations of hay, feed and fencing supplies for those impacted by the fires.

Credit card donations to the West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund may be made via PayPal on the TFB website at

texasfarmbureau.org/wildfire-relief-fund.

Checks may be made out to the Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture Research and Education Foundation and mailed to: West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund, P.O. Box 2689, Waco, Texas 76702-2689. Include "Attention: Chris Daughtery" on donation envelopes.

The charitable donations are tax-deductible.

Farmers and ranchers with unreimbursed agricultural losses are encouraged to apply for assistance. The application form is available on the West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund webpage at texasfarmbureau.org/wildfire-relief-fund.

Applications are due May 31.

For more information on the relief fund and the latest update on supplies needed, visit the West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund webpage.

To view the Texas A&M Forest Service statewide active fire response map, navigate to www.public.tfswildfires.com.

Water Weekly

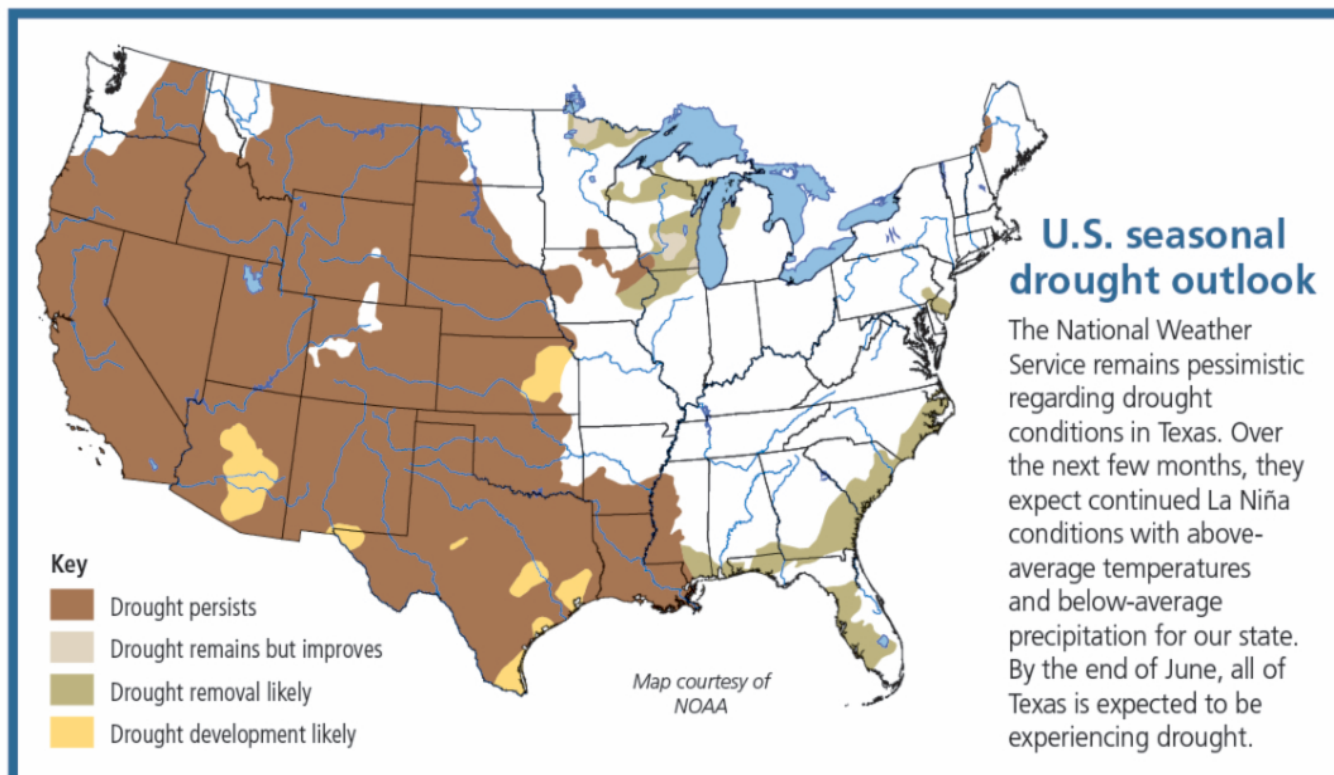
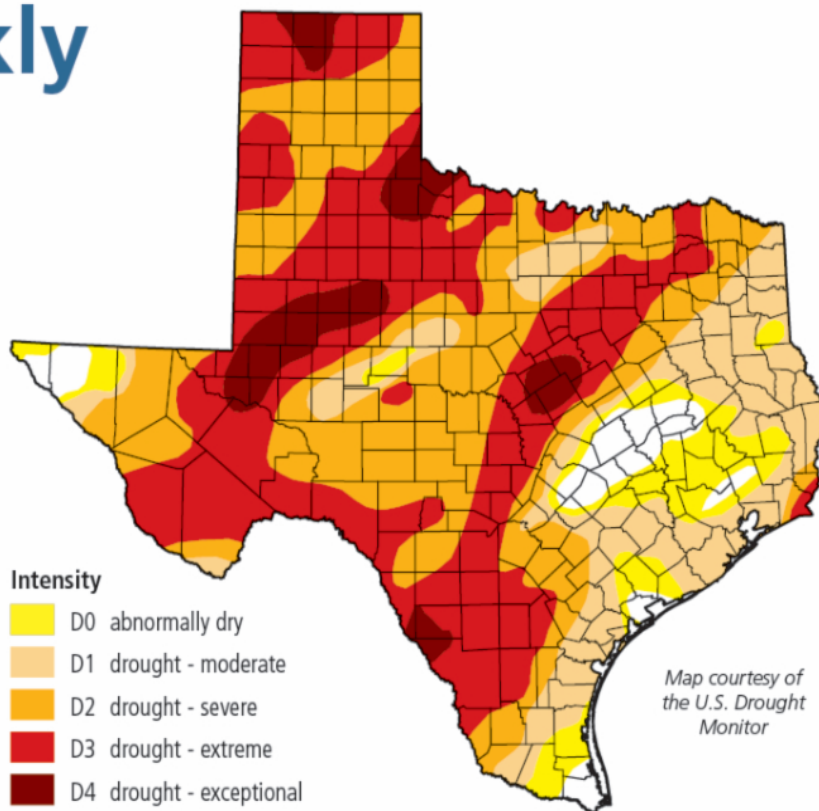
For the week of 03/28/22

Water conditions

Thanks to scattered storms, the latest drought map for conditions as of March 22 shows some contraction and easing of drought in the Panhandle and East Texas. Other parts of the state, including parts of Central and South Texas, experienced continued degradation of drought conditions.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 88% now
- ◆ 91% a week ago
- ◆ 65% three months ago
- ◆ 68% a year ago



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