

**...RLJH/HS Awards**

(Continued from page 4)

**9th Grade**

Patrick Barrera, Kailey Bradshaw, Kristen Moreno, Jocilyn Saxton, Emma Service, Abbigayle Smith, Preston Warren

**10th Grade**

Jacob Baimbridge, Ivan Escamilla, Noah Escamilla, Gavin Freeman, Heather Huapilla, Elizabeth Immel, Brisely Ureno

**11th Grade**

Jade Arens, Lacey Jones, Harlee Richardson

**12th Grade**

Daisy Brown, Kaleb Gregston, Tara McCormick, Crystal Salinas

**Virtual Leadership Conference replaces summer youth event**

by Julie Tomascik  
Texas Farm Bureau Editor

The Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Youth Leadership Conference will be held virtually this year due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“We made the difficult decision to change the format of our annual Youth Leadership Conference and make it a virtual event for 2020,” Mia Balko, TFB director of Youth Outreach, said. “Although we will have to make adjustments, we are still excited about offering a meaningful online experience for all participants.”

The Virtual Leadership Conference will still focus on the free enterprise system, patriotism and leadership.

Students will complete modules covering the U.S. Constitution, the free enterprise system and public speaking skills.

“A virtual scavenger hunt will also allow them the opportunity to learn more about Texas Farm Bureau and all the organization has to offer,” Balko said.

The online learning modules will be hosted via Google classroom.

Students will be eligible for prizes for each module they complete.

Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in August of 2020 are eligible to apply for the Virtual Leadership Conference.

“Today’s students are accustomed to learning information online. With the impacts of COVID-19, Texas youth are adapting as best they can to learning information online,” Balko said. “The Virtual Leadership Conference meets students where they are right now - online. We are aiming to make this experience as fun as we can and allowing students to connect with others virtually across the state.”

Visit <https://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities/> for more information and directions to complete the application process.

The deadline to apply is May 30.

Selected students will be notified by their county Farm

Bureau and invited to the Google classroom by TFB staff.

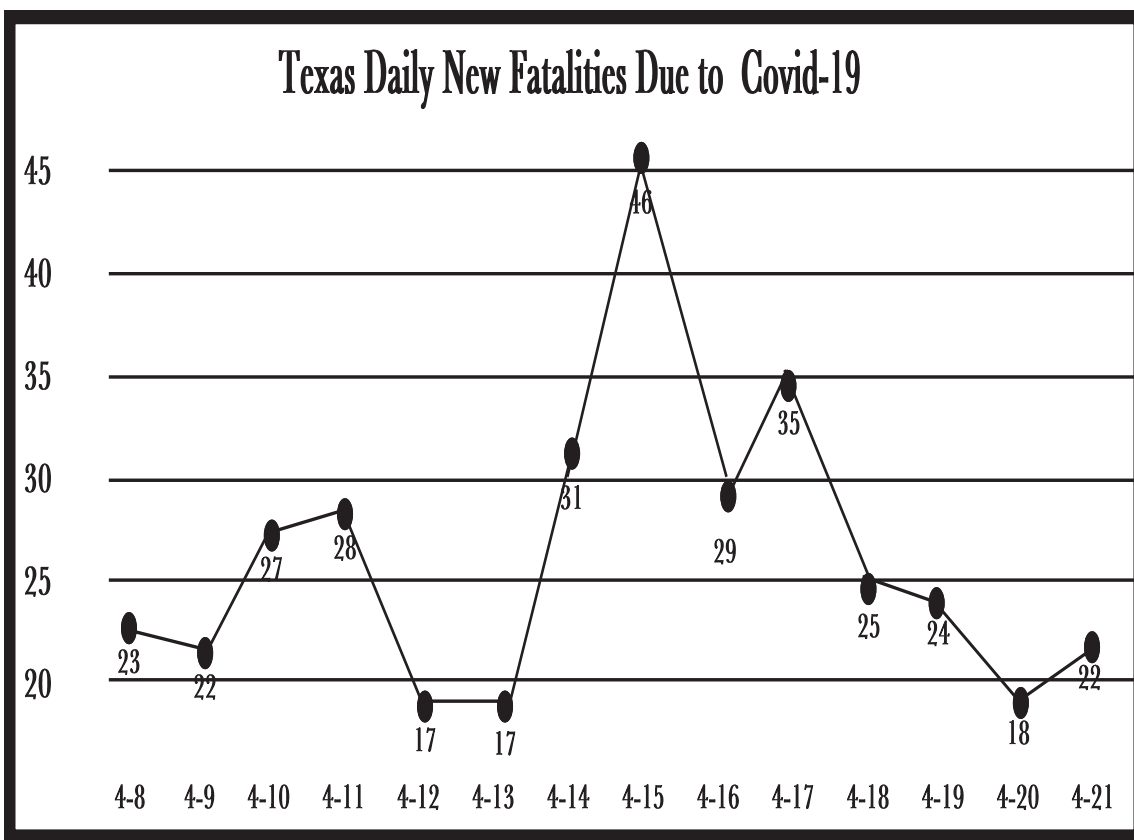
The online learning modules will be available from June 1-30. There is no cost for the event.

“This Virtual Leadership Conference will allow students to qualify for the Free Enterprise Speech contest and scholarship opportunities,” Balko said.

Students will also be able to apply for a junior counselor position for the Youth Leadership Conference in 2021.

“This has been a difficult spring for students and communities, but we hope the Virtual Leadership Conference helps connect students all around the state on topics that are important to all Texans and Americans—the Constitution and the free enterprise system,” Balko said.

For more information, contact Balko at [mbalko@txfb.org](mailto:mbalko@txfb.org) or 254-399-5037.



**Water Weekly**

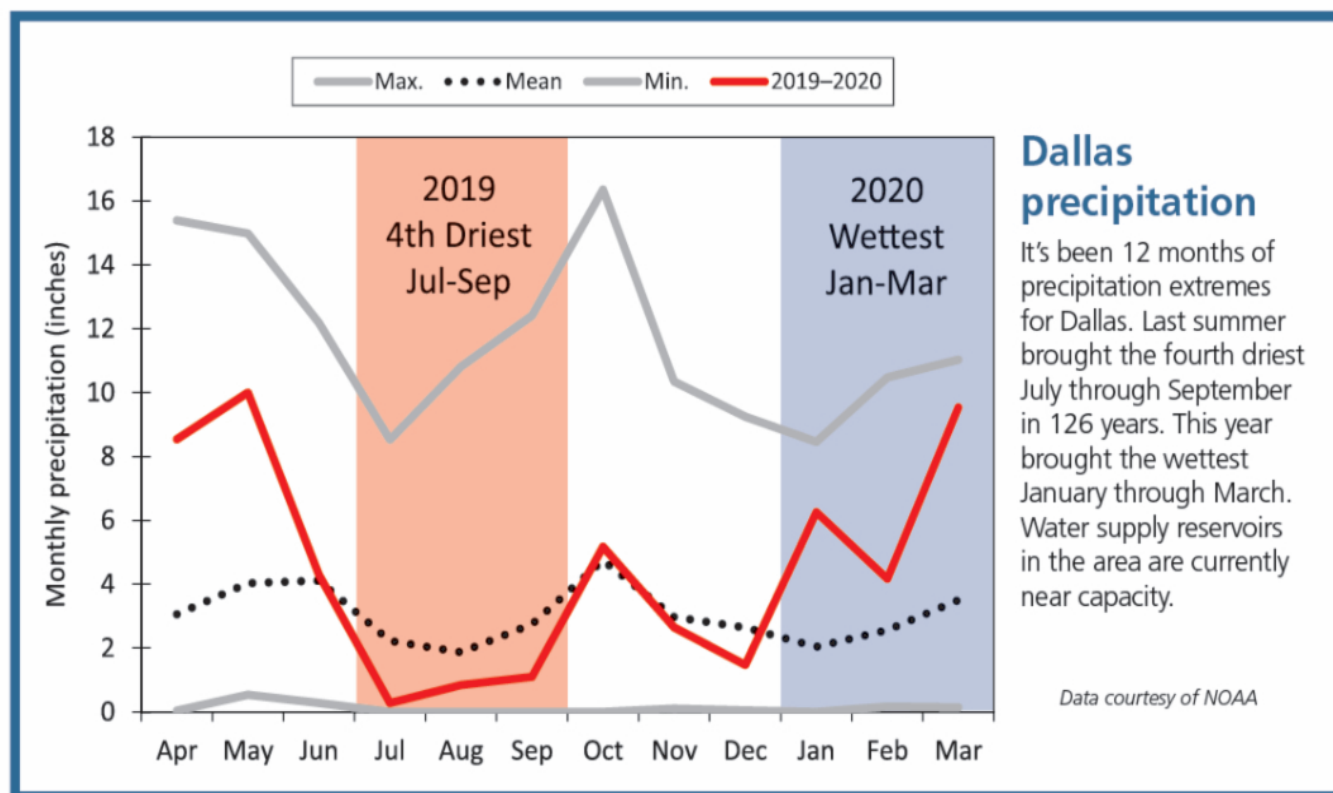
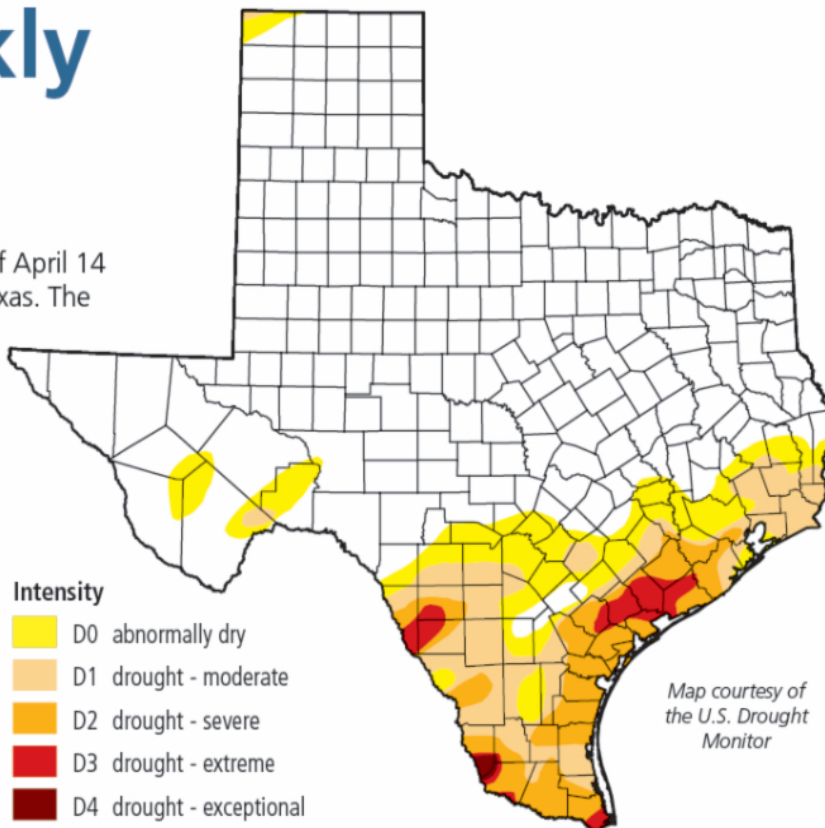
For the week of 04/20/20

**Water conditions**

The latest drought map for conditions as of April 14 shows continued improvement in South Texas. The area of the state impacted by severe or worse drought dropped two percentage points and now covers 8 percent of the state. Meanwhile, a small pocket of drought emerged in West Texas.

**Drought conditions**

- ◆ 16% now
- ◆ 19% a week ago
- ◆ 37% three months ago
- ◆ 5% a year ago



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

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