

FAYETTE COUNTY GROUNDWATER NEWS

SPRING 2009

DISTRICT OFFICE

Fayette County Groundwater
Conservation District
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|---|------------|
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OUR MISSION:

To provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge, and prevention of waste of groundwater and of groundwater reservoirs for the people of Fayette County.

Fayette County Groundwater News is a quarterly publication of the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District. Subscriptions are free upon request.

The District offers free brochures and information sheets concerning many aspects of water conservation and protection. Just drop by the office during regular office hours.

Protect Your Water- Register Your Well!

The Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District is conducting a well inventory throughout Fayette County. You can help by registering your water well. This will assist the District in estimating how much water the people of Fayette County need now and for projected growth. Forms can be found on the District's website or by contacting us at (979) 968-3135.

What is Drought?

Say "drought," and most people think of a period of hot, dry weather with too little rain. While any or all of those conditions can be present during a drought, the definition of drought is really more subtle and complex. Drought is not purely a physical phenomenon that can be defined by the weather. Rather, at its most essential level, drought is defined by the delicate balance between water supply and demand. Whenever human demands for water exceed the natural availability of water, the result is drought.

What Causes Drought?

Drought can be caused by too little precipitation (rain and snow) over an extended period, as most people assume, but drought can also be caused by increased demand for the available supply of usable water even during periods of average or above average precipitation.

Another factor that can affect water supply is a change in water quality. If some of the available water sources become contaminated--either temporarily or permanently--that decreases the supply of usable water, makes the balance between water supply and demand even more precarious, and increases the likelihood of drought.

What are the Three Types of Drought?

There are three conditions that are generally referred to as drought:

Meteorological drought—This type of drought all about the weather and occurs when there is a prolonged period of below average precipitation, which creates a natural shortage of available water.

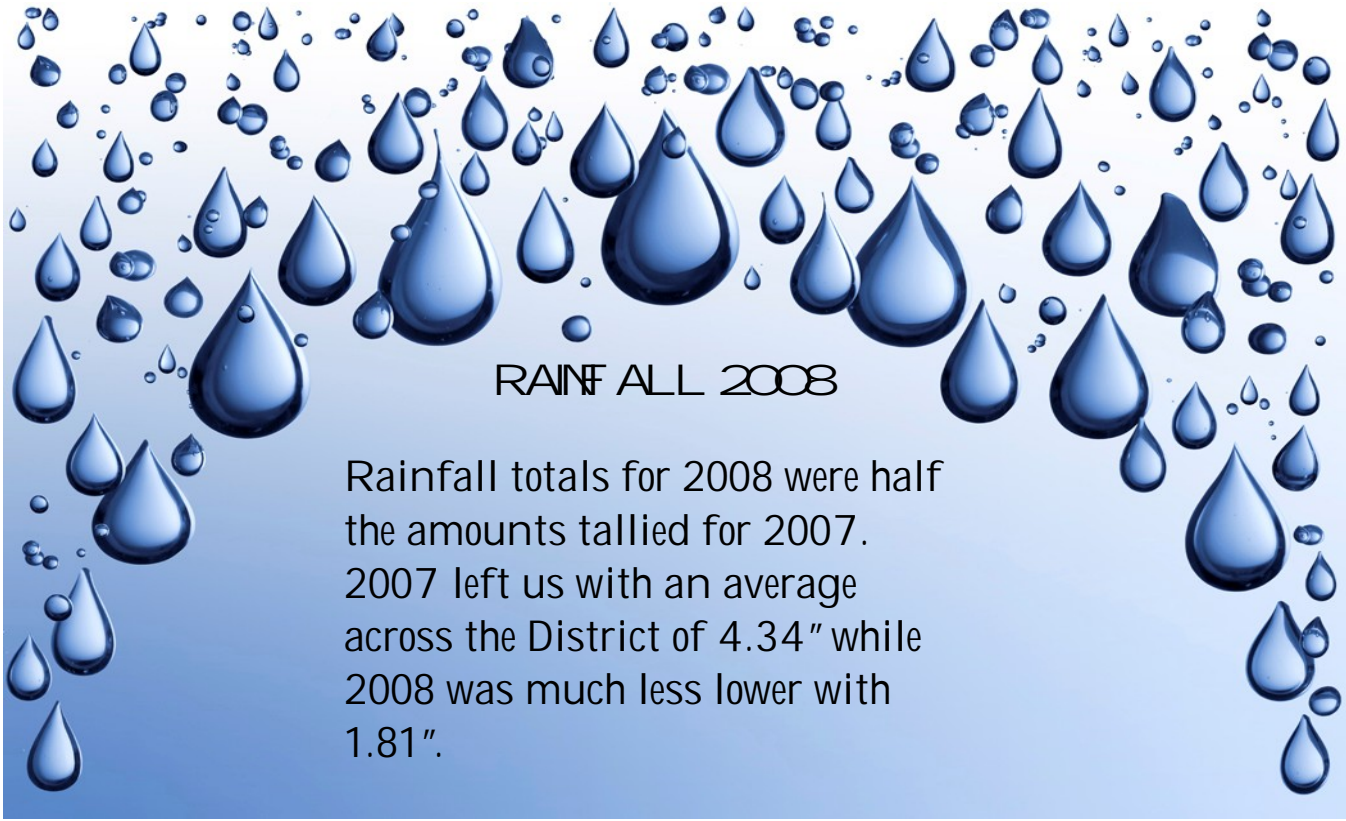
Agricultural drought—This type of drought occurs when there isn't enough moisture to support average crop production on farms or average grass production on range land. Although agricultural drought often occurs during dry, hot periods of low precipitation, it can also occur during periods of average precipitation when soil conditions or agricultural techniques require extra water.

Hydrological drought—This type of drought occurs when water reserves in aquifers, lakes and reservoirs fall below an established statistical average. Again, hydrological drought can happen even during times of average or above average precipitation, if human demand for water is high and increased usage has lowered the water reserves.

Different Ways of Viewing and Defining Drought

Which type of drought people mean when they talk about "drought" often depends on who they are, they kind of work they do, and the perspective that gives them.

Farmers and ranchers are most often concerned with agricultural drought, for example, and agricultural drought is also the type of drought that worries people in the grocery and meat business or people in farm communities that depend indirectly on agricultural income for their livelihoods. Urban planners usually mean hydrological drought when they talk about drought, because water supplies and reserves are key components in managing urban growth. The most common use of the term "drought" refers to meteorological drought, because that is the drought condition most familiar to the general public and the one most easily identified.



RAINF ALL 2008

Rainfall totals for 2008 were half the amounts tallied for 2007. 2007 left us with an average across the District of 4.34" while 2008 was much less lower with 1.81".

Groundwater Word Search

The Groundwater Foundation. Learn more at www.groundwater.org.



THE FAYETTE COUNTY GCD
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY,
MARCH 2, 2009
IN OBSERVANCE OF TEXAS
INDEPENDENCE DAY



aquifer
condensation
drink
drought
evaporation
fuel
groundwater
irrigate

permeable
pollution
precipitation
recharge
runoff
saturation zone
spring
well

Water Well Monitoring to Begin Soon

It s that time of year again!!!! Yes, the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District will be contacting volunteer well owners to schedule the next round of water level monitoring in late February and early March. Monitoring activities are planned to begin late March and continue through April. Well owner participation is encouraged so if you have a well in the *Aquifer Watch* monitoring program and have a preferred date/time you will be available please contact the District office at 979-968-3135. FCGCD staff will happy to work with you to make the process as convenient as possible.

If you are not in the *Aquifer Watch* program and wish to have your water well evaluated for participation in the program or want more information about the *Aquifer Watch* program, contact the District office at 979-968-3135. Initial evaluation visits take approximately 30 - 45 minutes and the well owner must be present. *Aquifer Watch* participation is completely voluntary, does not involve metering the water well, and there is no cost to the well owner for participation. All information gathered from a volunteer well is shared with the well owner.

The Board of Directors and the FCGCD staff appreciate all of our volunteer well owners for their participation in this vital program.

Calling All Unused Well Owners

The Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District is looking for a few good wells. Yes, we need a few good, unused, water wells to add to our Aquifer Watch monitoring program.

Every water well in the Aquifer Watch is truly needed and appreciated. However, we are seeking unused wells as the water level in these wells is generally unaffected by pumping and the District can track if the water levels are actually increasing or decreasing without fear that the pump just turned off.

Another benefit of having unused wells in the monitoring network is that the unused wells allow the District to perform prolonged and more in-depth monitoring and sampling than could be done on operational wells.

If there is a water well on your property that you feel meets our need, and if you would like to participate in the monitoring of the groundwater in Fayette County, please contact the District office at 979-968-3135. This program is free of charge to the well owner and all information gathered is shared with the owner.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

The Fayette County Groundwater News is available via email. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive our quarterly publication via email rather than via the US Mail, please contact our office at (979)968-3135 or drop us an email at fgcd@verizon.net.

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• Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
• 255 Svoboda Lane, Room 115
• La Grange, Texas 78945

• Visit us on the web at www.fayettecountygroundwater.com

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| Place Stamp Here |
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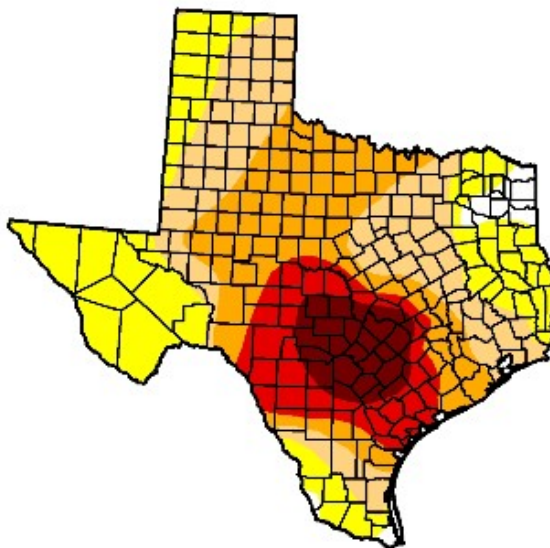
U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

February 10, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Current | 2.6 | 97.4 | 69.5 | 43.8 | 19.6 | 7.6 |
| Last Week (02/03/2009 map) | 4.6 | 95.4 | 66.8 | 42.6 | 19.6 | 6.7 |
| 3 Months Ago (11/18/2008 map) | 59.5 | 40.5 | 22.0 | 14.0 | 6.2 | 0.0 |
| Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map) | 41.7 | 58.3 | 24.5 | 15.0 | 9.1 | 4.2 |
| Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map) | 67.2 | 32.8 | 20.5 | 11.0 | 3.6 | 0.0 |
| One Year Ago (02/12/2008 map) | 14.7 | 85.3 | 39.7 | 11.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

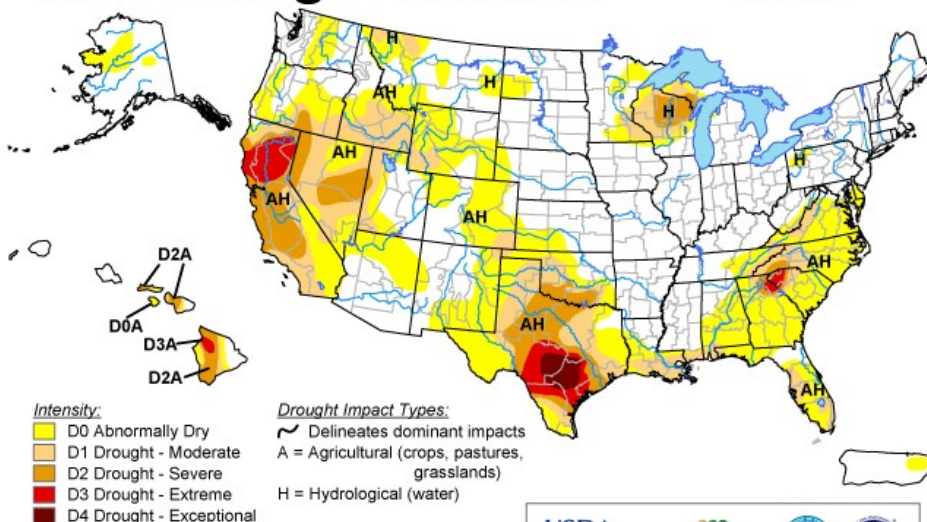


Released Thursday, February 12, 2009
Author: Rich Tinker, CPC/NOAA

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 10, 2009
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Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

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