

# Farmers face wheat loss from draught

**Associated Press**  
WICHITA, Kan. — Wheat farmers in the Great Plains have begun plowing under part of their drought-shriveled 1976 crop in a desperate effort to head off severe wind erosion that could affect millions of acres.

High winds this week in western Kansas and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles kicked up dust storms reminiscent of Dust Bowl days.

"It was like the 'Dirty 30s' for awhile Monday," said Allan Bowman, district director in southwestern Kansas for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Drought already has cut ex-

pected wheat production in southwestern Kansas to about 5 per cent of the normal 30-bushel per acre yield, Bowman estimated, and many fields are being plowed to prevent soil from blowing away.

"There is considerable stripping being done now," he said, "and if the weather continues like this, the farmers will have to resort to total tillage in many fields. Of course, then they lose their wheat crop."

Lack of rainfall has plagued the wheat-growing region from Nebraska to Texas. Winter wheat, which makes up about three-fourths of all the nation's wheat production, has been drastically affected by the

drought, agricultural officials reported.

"We're not just crying wolf to make the price of wheat go up," said Myron Krenzlin, administrator of the Kansas Wheat Commission. "It looks bad. If we don't get some rain soon and the winds keep up, we're really going to be hurting."

Mrs. Earl Hayes of Stafford, whose husband is president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, said growers estimate they have lost at least 75 million to 100 million bushels, figures that translate into a loss of between \$225 million and \$300 million at current farm prices.

Although important as bread grain, wheat does not bear as heavily

December because of the drought. Emergency tillage was accelerating in some areas as the dry weather continued.

The SCS figures will be updated at the end of this month, and Krenzlin and other wheat officials predict a substantial increase in damaged croplands and wheat acreage tilled to prevent erosion.

The problems in the wheat belt stem from an extremely dry autumn that has been followed by a mild, dry winter. Western Kansas has had only two major rains or snows since farmers seeded the 1976 crop last September, and similar conditions have prevailed in parts of Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas.

on consumer food prices as other livestock seed grain produce the nation's meat, and milk. But a skimpy winter would probably fan prices of grains upward and make it expensive to feed livestock.

The federal Soil Conservation Service said 10.3 million acres of land from the Dakotas to Texas are open to severe wind erosion by the end of December and more than 10 million acres already had been eroded.

Farmers in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas plowed up about 43,000 acres of cropland — much of it planted to winter wheat — in November to phase out public service jobs this year.

"I am appalled that the administration can indulge in such self-congratulation about a reduction in the rate of joblessness, when Americans are still out of work," Daniels said. "Public employment is the most effective emergency solution because it hires people."

The party breakdown on the bill was 218 Democrats and 23 Republicans in favor and 52 Democrats and 102 Republicans against.

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# Public jobs bill faces presidential veto

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON — A public-service jobs bill moving through Congress faces a presidential veto, and there is at least one sign that such a veto will be successful.

The House approved the measure Tuesday by a vote of 239 to 154, 23 votes short of a two-thirds margin that would be needed to override President Ford's veto, which is expected.

Members of the Senate Labor Committee are expected to approve the measure, which is given a reasonably good chance of passing the full Senate.

The bill would authorize about \$6 billion for 250,000 jobs mainly in nongovernmental, nonprofit institutions such as schools and hospitals

and continue an existing program of 320,000 jobs in state and local governments.

Expansion of the public service jobs program is a key part of the Democrats' antirecession effort. Democratic backers of the bill said in debate Tuesday that even with the recent drop in unemployment figures, more than seven million persons still are unable to find jobs.

"People are on the brink of despair because they cannot find jobs," said Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., especially in the black community where jobless rates are far higher than for whites.

Ford, who successfully vetoed a similar bill last year, repeated his opposition to the legislation Tuesday during ceremonies for his new labor

secretary, saying steady growth of private industry is needed to "generate realistic, permanent fulfilling jobs" as opposed to government-sponsored programs.

"This steady approach is already yielding convincing results," Ford said, pointing to the drop in unemployment from 8.3 to 7.8 per cent in statistics for January released last week. Two million more Americans are now working than at the depth of the recession last March, he said.

Rep. Dominick V. Daniels, D-N.J., who handled the public service jobs bill on the floor, criticized the administration's intention to

phase out public service jobs this year.

"I am appalled that the administration can indulge in such self-congratulation about a reduction in the rate of joblessness, when Americans are still out of work," Daniels said. "Public employment is the most effective emergency solution because it hires people."

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# Weather modification chasing away rain, hail

**Associated Press**  
PLAINVIEW, Tex. — The question of weather modification — cloud seeding and hail suppressing — has brought out some bitter reaction from farmers in this West Texas area who feel any tampering with the weather could have an adverse effect on their crops.

The farmers expressed disapproval of weather modification Tuesday during a hearing by the Texas Water Development Board. It was a continuation of the controversy involving farmers with irrigated lands, who generally favor hail suppressing or cloud seeding programs, and those who farm drylands and are opposed to any experiments that might affect weather conditions.

Most of those testifying Tuesday were opposed to the weather modification attempts. The hearing had been called following a request by the Plains Weather Improvement Association for a permit to conduct

weather modification activities in portions of West Texas.

A. C. Black, chairman of the board, said after the meeting that the board would not necessarily be a guiding factor in the board makes a decision on the A's request.

"Sentiment is important, but it is also after documented," Black said.

Most of the speakers said they had seen twin-engine planes drop clouds which they felt could bring them some needed rain.

Parmer County Judge Parmer said he and other members of the commission and other weather modification activities in the county.

The permit for weather modification activities would cover parts of Castro, Swisher, Hale, Lott, Floyd, Lamb, Hockley, DeWitt and Parmer counties.

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