

Subject: Texas Drought

Story Summary: Months of hot, dry weather in Texas have been a hardship to farmers and ranchers. Crops and livestock in the Lone Star State are hurting because of the severe drought.

TRT: 1:44

Suggested Lead: Texas weather is setting records. A long dry spell has been accompanied by weeks of high heat. Tom Steever reports.

Suggested Supers: Ellis County, Texas
@ :01

Steve Patman
Texas Farmer
@ :09

Tom Steever Reporting
@ 1:33

Texas Drought
Tom Steever Reporting
September 28, 2000

<p>L/s pair of cotton harvesters Ellis County, Texas L/s of harvester</p>	<p>VO/ IT TAKES A HOT, ARID CLIMATE TO GROW COTTON. BUT THIS YEAR, TEXAS HAS HAD TOO MUCH HEAT AND DRY WEATHER TO GROW MUCH OF ANYTHING.</p>
<p>Steve Patman Texas farmer</p>	<p>SOT/ “So it’s cut our yields, probably in half of what we normally make.”</p>
<p>Rack focus of cotton harvest Steve checks cotton field Reaches for cotton</p>	<p>VO/ OFFICIALLY, THE AREA IS ONLY A FEW INCHES BEHIND NORMAL RAINFALL BECAUSE OF AN UNUSUALLY WET SPRING. THAT EARLY RAIN AFFECTED ROOT DEVELOPMENT IN YOUNG PLANTS.</p>
<p>Patman sot Pulls apart boll</p>	<p>SOT/ “So the cotton plant really suffered because it had all the roots up close to the top of the ground and the tap root that goes down to moisture can’t keep up with the moisture as fast as it’s drying down.”</p>
<p>Patman sot Compares cotton bolls</p>	<p>SOT/ “That’s more like the normal size. Then you find some of these bolls up in the top, that should be about the same size and we see the difference in the size that one’s going to be and the size this one is; if we’d had normal weather, they would all be the same.”</p>
<p>Pan dry grass Cattle eating hay</p>	<p>VO/ IT’S NOT ONLY THE COTTON THAT SUFFERS FROM DRY WEATHER. DROUGHT STRICKEN GRASS IS CAUSING EARLY SEASON DEMAND FOR HAY.</p>
<p>Patman sot Pan of dry grass</p>	<p>SOT/ “We started about the middle of July feeding our hay that we put up for the winter time, cause there’s no grass for them to eat. I think we got enough made to keep up through the winter but</p>

	it's going to be tight this year.”
Patman walking in dry water hole	VO/ THIS WATER HOLE USUALLY HAS CATTLE DRINKING FROM IT. IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS IT'S BEEN DRY.
Patman sot Z-out of hoof prints in dry water hole	SOT/ “We're probably going to have to start hauling water to the cattle. We did that in '96 and we'll probably have to start here in another week or two. Seems like the cattle can drink twice as much when you're giving them water than they do whenever it's out in the tanks.”
Cracks in ground Pan of cracked ground Low angle of dry grass Tom Steever reporting Low angle shot of cotton in sun	VO/ THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAYS IT'LL TAKE AS MUCH AS A FOOT OF RAIN TO BRING SOIL MOISTURE BACK TO NORMAL. SO FAR, THAT'S NOT IN THE FORECAST. NEAR WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS I'M TOM STEEVER