

## March 2017 Operations Report

**March 21, 2017** - Seeding operations were conducted over Sterling (26+2H) County. 26 flares plus 3 hygroscopic flares were burned within 2 clouds.

**March 28, 2017** - Seeding operations were conducted over Reagan (22+1H) and Sterling (18+2H) Counties. 40 flares plus 3 hygroscopic flares were burned within 1 cloud.

The month of March contained 2 days of operations.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flares</b>	<b>Counties seeded</b>
<b>21</b>	26+2H	Sterling
<b>28</b>	40+3H	Reagan, Sterling
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66+5H</b>	

March 2017 was a drier month with only a few days of spotty showers and storms. With that said, two days of operations took place, both producing heavy showers and storms. Those that were impacted by these storms saw rainfall up to 1.5", while most of the area remained between 0.25" and 1". The month was dominated by high pressure and upper level ridging, which inhibited thunderstorm development. The two days of operations were fired up by a dryline that moved into unstable air masses on both the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Earlier in the month, on the 10th, one cell did develop near Ozona but embedded convection and hard to reach bases made the storm too difficult to seed.

Month to date rainfall across the region was below normal for the most part. March was dominated but upper level ridging with only a few weak upper level systems moving across the region. Fortunately, these systems did bring rainfall along with them resulting in an area average rainfall of 0.63". This, however, was below normal for the month. San Angelo received 0.25" for the month which is far below the average of 1.50". Abilene only received 0.42" which is also below their average of 1.74". Also below average was Midland, which only received 0.48" of their average of 0.60". On top of the dry conditions, temperatures remained very warm. All three stations recorded temperatures for the month 6-8°F above normal. The average temperature of 64.7°F in San Angelo was third warmest since 1950 for the month of March. Only 0.2°F below the record.

The year to date discussion is much of the same. Abilene and San Angelo both have rainfall totals below average through March. San Angelo, sitting at 2.96", is 0.82" below average for the year while Abilene is sitting 0.32" below average. Surprisingly, Midland is above average with a total of 2.32", 0.45" above normal. As far as temperatures to, San Angelo is experiencing its warmest start since 1950 with an average temperature over 57.47°F. This is above average by 5.9°F.

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Monthly rain gauge measurements from nearest locations inside and out of the target area recorded either by the National Weather Service, Texas Tech University, Mesowest as well as CoCoRaHS.

***March 2017 (Normal's of 0.60" from Midland to 1.50" in San Angelo)***

<b>Crockett County</b>		<b>Reagan County</b>		<b>Tom Green</b>	
Ozona 32SW	0.56	Big Lake (TTU)	0.48	Wall	0.70
Ozona 20.9SSW	0.64	Big Lake (NWS)	-	San Angelo 7NW	0.40
Ozona 19.6S	0.62	Cope Ranch	0.62	Knickerbocker	0.06
Ozona 15SSW	1.29	<b>Sterling County</b>		Carlsbad	1.03
Ozona Airport	0.49	Sterling City (MES)	0.53	Miles 6.5SSE	0.90
<b>Irion County</b>		Sterling City (TTU)	0.61	San Angelo (NWS)	0.25
Mertzon (TTU)	0.48	Sterling City 0.7NW	0.55	<b>Out of Target Area</b>	
Mertzon (S)	0.34	<b>Sutton County</b>		Junction (Kimble)	0.84
Barnhart	0.73	Sonora Average	1.03	Midland (Midland)	0.48
<b>Schleicher County</b>		Sonora Airport	0.95	Abilene (Taylor)	0.42
Eldorado 0.2	0.69	<b>AREA AVERAGE</b>		St. Lawrence (Glasscock)	1.15
Eldorado 22.6ENE		<b>0.63</b>		Lees (Glasscock)	1.22

***Year to Date (Normal's of 1.87" from Midland to 3.78" in San Angelo)***

<b>Crockett County</b>		<b>Reagan County</b>		<b>Tom Green</b>	
Ozona 32SW	3.63	Big Lake (TTU)	4.16	Wall	3.81
Ozona 20.9SSW	4.00	Big Lake (NWS)	-	San Angelo 7NW	3.84
Ozona 19.6S	3.81	Cope Ranch	4.03	Knickerbocker	3.49
Ozona 15SSW	4.36	<b>Sterling County</b>		Carlsbad	4.93
Ozona Airport	2.25	Sterling City (MES)	4.59	Miles 6.5SSE	4.48
<b>Irion County</b>		Sterling City (TTU)	4.48	San Angelo (NWS)	2.96
Mertzon (TTU)	4.46	Sterling City 0.7NW	4.22	<b>Out of Target Area</b>	
Mertzon (S)	3.85	<b>Sutton County</b>		Junction (Kimble)	3.82
Barnhart	4.31	Sonora Average	4.29	Midland (Midland)	2.32
<b>Schleicher County</b>		Sonora Airport	4.02	Abilene (Taylor)	3.80
Eldorado 0.2	3.81	<b>AREA AVERAGE</b>		St. Lawrence (Glasscock)	3.72
Eldorado 22.6ENE		<b>3.88</b>		Lees (Glasscock)	3.56