

Winter 2023

BLUEBONNET BULLETIN

BLUEBONNET GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



The front of the new building with our office located in the right wing (not pictured). Join us at our next Board Meeting April 13th!

UP NEXT:

*Upcoming Events
Seasonal Drought Outlook
Rule of Capture
Timely Tips for Well Owners*

District News

highlights & takeaways

NEW YEAR, NEW BUILDING!

With 20-plus years of service in groundwater management, the growth and development of the duties and responsibilities of the District allowed for office relocation. The new location was chosen with long-term growth in mind and will provide opportunities for hosting public meetings or events such as education and outreach programs, rainwater harvesting and EarthKind landscape classes, GMA 14 meetings, continuing education classes, and the like. We look forward to sharing this new space with you in the years to come!

DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

Walker County Commissioners Court has appointed Mr. David Thornberry to represent the agricultural interests of Walker County for the unexpired term through January 2024. Waller County Commissioners Court has appointed Mr. Brian Rowland to represent the rural water supplier's interests of Waller County through January 2024. The District appreciates the work and perspectives former Directors Burnett and Stoker provided to the Board and staff. Their time and efforts were incredibly valuable, representing yourselves and your County well. Thank you for your service to the District.

Save the Date

upcoming events & programs

BGCD + AGRILIFE PROGRAMS

- *Rainwater Harvesting 101*. Apr. 6, 9 AM - 11 AM, Hempstead

DISTRICT MEETINGS

- *GMA 14 Joint Planning Meeting*. Mar. 7, 1:15 PM, Angleton
- *BGCD Board Meeting*. Apr. 13, 6:00 PM, Navasota

OTHER WATER EVENTS

- *4-H Water Ambassadors applications open*. Mar. 15
- *Texas Groundwater Summit*. Aug. 29-30, San Antonio

More information about events can be found on the District's website: www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Bluebonnet GCD offers scholarships to support students from Austin, Grimes, Walker, and Waller Counties accepted and active in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program! The scholarship covers the costs for District students to participate, including travel!



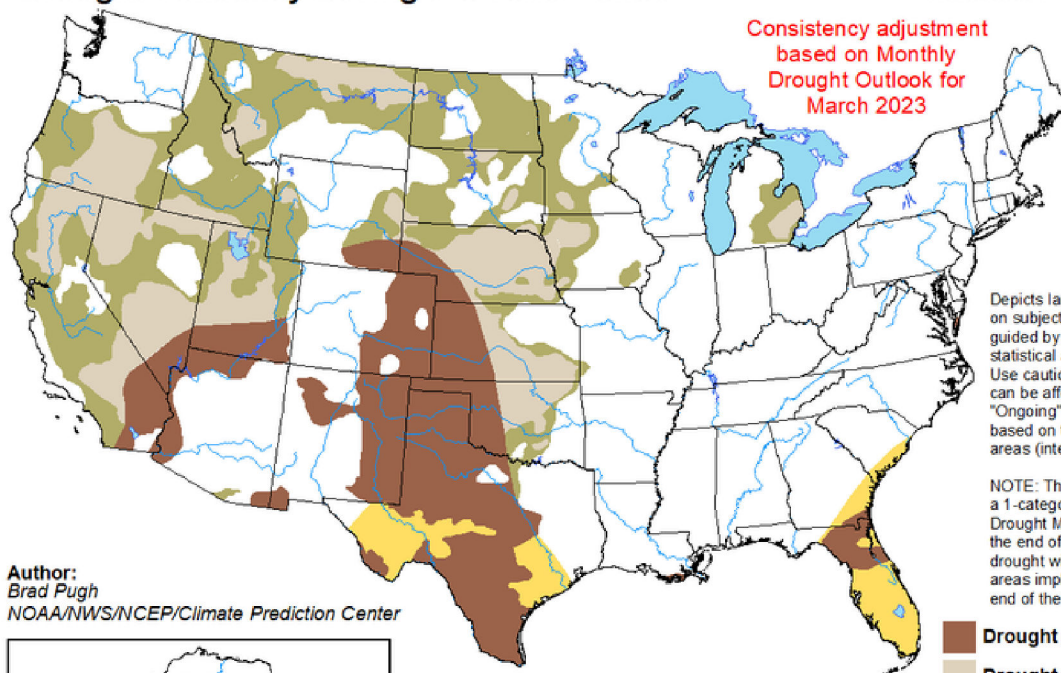
Scan the QR code to register for Rainwater Harvesting 101!



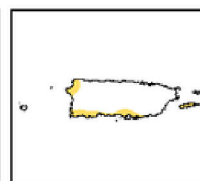
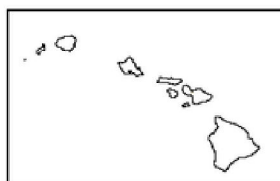
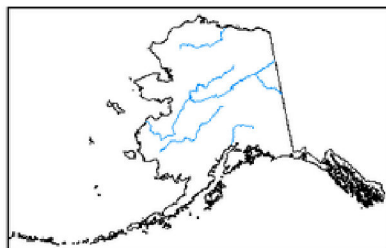
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2023
Released February 28, 2023

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
March 2023



Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Drought Outlook Takeaways

drought tendencies & predictions for March - May 31, 2023

Two inches or more of precipitation fell across eastern portions of the South region, specifically parts of Mississippi and much of Tennessee. Half an inch or more occurred from there to eastern Oklahoma and northeast Texas. For the rest of Oklahoma and Texas, the week continued a dry pattern. Abnormal dryness and moderate to extreme drought contracted in eastern Oklahoma, due to wet conditions this week and previous weeks and improved soil moisture and streamflow conditions, and abnormal dryness contracted in northeast Texas. But extreme to exceptional drought expanded in western Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle, while abnormal dryness and moderate to severe drought expanded in parts of southern Texas along the coast and along the Rio Grande River where streamflow and soil moisture conditions deteriorated and precipitation deficits continued to grow. According to media reports, 80-mph winds created a dust storm in the Oklahoma panhandle that caused a multiple-car pileup, killing a driver. (National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center) **Full climate report available here:** <http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>.

Rule of Capture

Texas water management

The Rule of Capture governs groundwater and gives a landowner the right to pump water beneath their property, even at the expense of their neighbors. This was established by the Texas Supreme Court ruling in 1904 when a landowner's well went dry due to a nearby, deeper well of a railroad company. The Court ruled the landowner's solution was to drill his own bigger, deeper well. One limitation of the rule of capture is Groundwater Conservation Districts.

The Texas Constitution tasks the Legislature with managing the natural resources in the State, and they determined local management through groundwater conservation districts (GCDs).

These districts manage groundwater within a limited scope by developing plans and implementing rules around groundwater production, differing based on the GCD and local needs. GCDs rules might include a permitting process for groundwater wells, reporting requirements, and/or production rules that limit pump size, production limits, and spacing rules. Credit to: Dowell Lashmat, T. (2018). *Basics of Water Law*. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. <https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/files/2018/01/Basics-of-Texas-Water-Law.pdf>



Timely Tips for Well Owners

Now is the time to consider well maintenance! Winter is the “off-season” for groundwater pumping and demand is typically at its lowest. Now is the time to consider doing all your water-related maintenance to be ready for spring! Well owners, check out the handy checklist of [well maintenance tips](#) to make it quick and easy by scanning the QR code with your phone!

BLUEBONNET

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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Special thanks to:
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