

Drought In Central Texas

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We all know it's dangerously dry here in Central Texas right now.

KXAN Meteorologist Laura Skirde has more on why the long term outlook may offer little relief.

"We definitely have a spring on our place, and it has never run dry to my knowledge," rancher Wes Eberling said.

It's getting dangerously close. Eberling and many others are now selling off cattle.

The drought is depleting all the grass they need to graze.

"It's worse than usual. Normally it will be dry a while, then we'll get enough rain going. But there's no rain, no where in this country," rancher Rodney Schoen said.

The latest drought index has a mild drought in the Hill Country to moderate drought from Austin east and severe drought in Williamson and Milam counties.

Much of Central Texas only got less than 50 percent of normal rain last year. It's going to take a lot to turn things around.

"If we get some rain it'll help, but we need some rain for a good, steady amount of time," Eberling said.

"We need about six inches of rain to even get started again. The ground is so dry, so deep, it won't even sprout the seed," Schoen said.

There is more bad news from the climate prediction center.

Pacific water temperatures along the Equator appear to be cooling enough to signify the beginning of a La Nina event.

In Central Texas, that means the Pacific jet stream far to the north of us. The result could be a warm, dry fall and winter to come.

That's a worst case scenario considering how dry things are now. Another effect of La Nina more tropical activity in the summer.

This is right on the heels of what's been the busiest hurricane season on record.