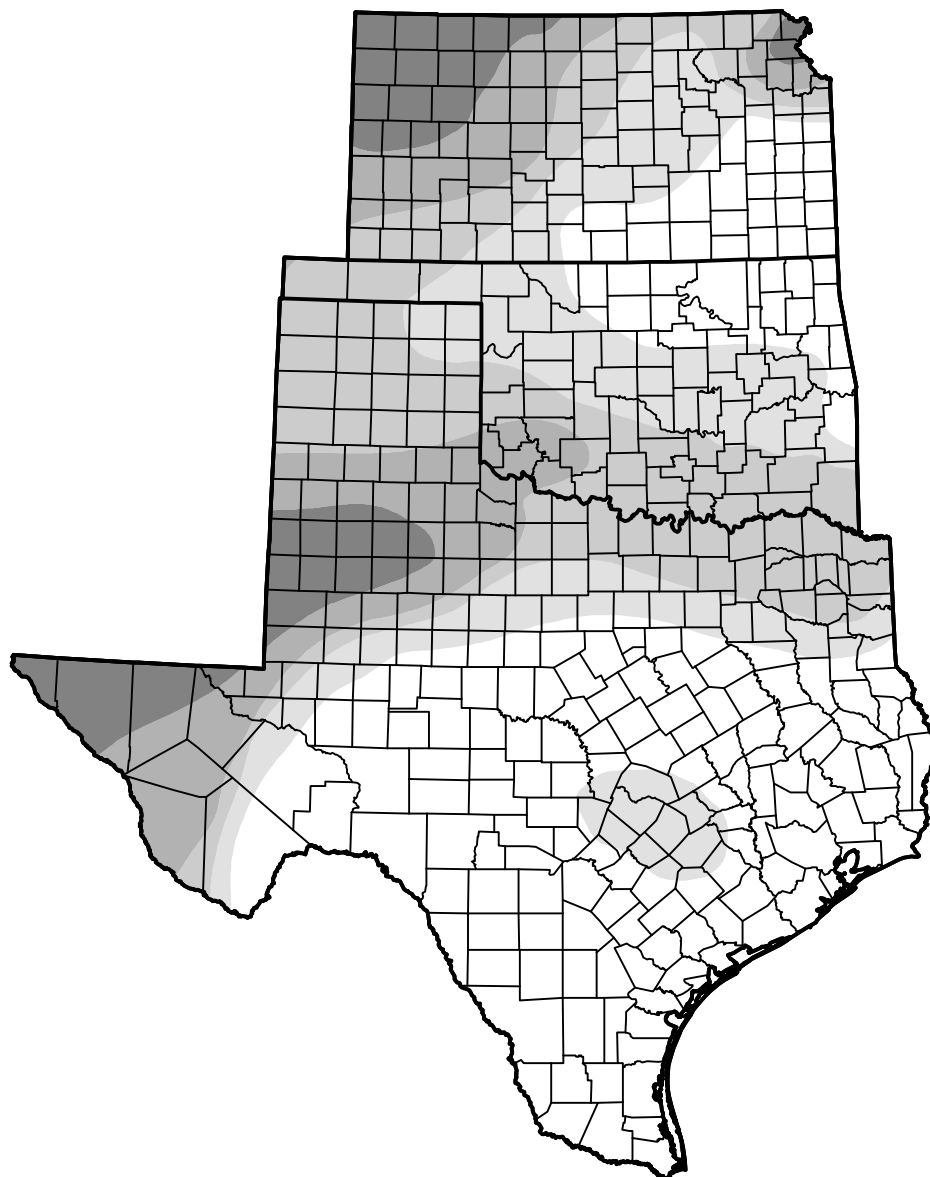


*U.S. Drought Monitor*  
**USDA Southern Plains  
Climate Hub**

**December 16, 2003**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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