



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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## Drought Worsens Following Another Week of Little Rainfall

The data reflects the week ending: **October 14, 2007.**

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Harvested	98	94	99	94
Cotton Bolls Opening	96	93	95	96
Cotton Harvested	38	24	47	35
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	91	87	92	90
Soybeans Harvested	40	33	50	36
Peanuts Dug	46	33	34	67
Peanuts Combined	33	22	23	55

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.	
	Percent				
Cotton	40	30	22	7	1
Soybeans	52	24	22	2	0
Peanuts	16	25	35	22	2
Livestock	41	17	26	16	0
Pasture & Range	44	33	20	3	0

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short			
		Short	Adequate	Surplus	
		Percent			
District 10	7.0	79	21	0	0
District 20	6.9	90	10	0	0
District 30	6.7	85	15	0	0
District 40	6.9	63	24	13	0
District 50	7.0	33	29	38	0
District 60	7.0	41	53	6	0
State: Previous Week	6.8	61	29	10	0
State: Current Week	6.9	66	28	6	0

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** The unrelenting dry weather caused conditions in Alabama to worsen during the past week. After another week of very isolated rain showers, the U.S. Drought Monitor categorized 58.8 percent of Alabama as suffering from exceptional drought conditions, a 6.8 percent increase from a week ago. At the same time a year ago, only abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions were experienced by Alabama farmers and ranchers. Average temperatures lingered at above normal levels again this week. Russellville and Pinson saw high temperatures that reached to seven degrees above normal for this time of year. Daytime highs ranged from 86 degrees in Opelika to 92 degrees in Muscle Shoals, Montgomery, and Headland. Overnight lows

dipped to a very cool 36 degrees in Hamilton. Mobile recorded the warmest nighttime low at 51 degrees. Rainfall was scarce at most weather stations during the past week. Accumulations varied from 0.01 inches in Pinson, Marion Junction, and Eufaula to 1.23 inches in Livingston. Year-to-date precipitation deficits continued to build, with Anniston already more than 26 inches behind. Producers were busy harvesting crops that remained in their fields, and preparing seedbeds for small grain planting.

**Corn/Soybeans:** The last of Alabama's corn producers were busy wrapping up harvest during the past week, as progress moved forward slightly behind the pace of last year. Alabama's soybean crop remained in mostly very poor or poor condition. Farmers harvested their soybean fields at a pace ahead of last year, but behind the five-year average.

**Cotton/Peanuts:** Cotton harvest lagged behind last year, but was slightly ahead of the five-year average. Leonard Kuykendall, Autauga County Extension Agent, reported that producers were the slowest ever in defoliation and picking cotton because in most places, the crop will not even pay for the costs of defoliation, picking, and ginning. Most fields had cotton plants with small, hard-lock bolls that kept the majority of the cotton on the stalk after harvest. Many producers harvested just enough to satisfy the regulations of their crop insurance. A few Covington County producers had fields where the cotton crop was still blooming, and had not been defoliated. The condition of the state's peanut crop remained unchanged from a week ago, with most of the crop reported in fair to good condition. Harvest progressed ahead of last year, but remained seriously behind the five-year average.

**Peaches/Blueberries:** As the fruit season wrapped up, many producers commented on the how effects of the Easter weekend freeze, coupled with prolonged drought throughout the year destroyed much of Alabama's peach and blueberry crops. Producers that had trees in full bloom and chose not to protect them, lost their entire crop when the freeze hit. Other growers had fruit that survived the cold weather, only to lose it to the hot, dry conditions experienced during the summer. Insect pressure from mites also caused damaged to peach orchards in some areas of the state.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Pasture conditions during the past week remained dry, with very little grass provided to the state's livestock for grazing. Most ponds and streams were either completely dry or very low. Some producers had lost cattle because they had become stuck in the mud while trying to get to what little water remained. T.H. Gregg, Etowah County Extension Agent, noted that a few producers were able to harvest a third cutting of hay. Russell C. Parrish, Jr., Crenshaw County Extension Agent, added that producers in the county saw serious reductions in their final hay yields, and many had stopped seeding their winter grazing due to the lack of moisture in the ground. Reporters rated most of the state's livestock in very poor or poor condition, unchanged from a week ago.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, October 8, 2007 To Sunday, October 14, 2007**

Weather Station	Air Temperatures				Precipitation			Precipitation since Jan 1			Avg. 4" Soil Temp	GDD Base 50		GDD Base 60	
	High	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	% Normal		Total	DFN	Total	DFN
District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 32% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 39% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	92	43	67	5	0.00	-0.70	0	26.06	-15.78	62		124	33	57	24
Russellville	89	44	66	7	0.04	-0.68	1	25.01	-19.06	57		120	47	54	31
Belle Mina	91	41	66	5	0.00	-0.69	0	19.21	-23.47	45	79	117	34	53	24
Huntsville Ag	91	43	68	5	0.00	-0.70	0	21.81	-22.85	49		125	34	58	25
Hamilton	90	36	65	4	0.08	-0.63	1	29.31	-17.55	63		108	31	47	23
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 21% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 35% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	91	45	68	4	0.34	-0.26	1	16.55	-26.32	39		127	29	59	23
Cullman Ag	87	43	65	4	0.60	-0.17	1	22.71	-24.30	48	71	109	26	44	15
Sand Mountain	87	44	65	5	0.00	-0.67	0	26.91	-17.31	61		109	33	46	21
Gadsden_AP	91	43	66	4	0.16	-0.47	2	22.65	-21.50	51		114	25	48	17
Bridgeport	90	42	65	5	0.00	-0.78	0	25.12	-21.63	54		112	39	46	23
Guntersville	87	42	67	3	0.03	-0.62	1	25.53	-17.02	60		130	32	61	23
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 8% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	90	45	69	6	0.02	-0.61	1	19.65	-25.64	43	73	145	45	75	36
Talladega	90	41	66	3	0.15	-0.52	1	20.52	-25.51	45		120	24	54	20
Birmingham_AP	90	48	69	6	0.20	-0.40	1	24.50	-19.11	56		134	35	64	25
Alabaster	89	43	68	5	0.04	-0.54	1	27.33	-18.85	59		129	28	61	23
Pinson	91	43	68	7	0.01	-0.61	1	22.28	-22.92	49		135	51	65	36
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	86	40	66	2	0.00	-0.67	0	27.71	-18.61	60		118	18	53	14
Alexander_City	89	43	68	5	0.00	-0.71	0	24.44	-21.83	53		129	31	60	23
Tuscaloosa_AP	91	42	69	4	0.20	-0.43	1	19.29	-24.64	44		130	21	62	17
Jasper	90	43	66	6	0.35	-0.42	1	26.96	-18.74	59		121	41	55	29
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 11% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 9% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	89	43	70	5	0.00	-0.58	0	23.80	-20.83	53		149	38	79	34
Marion Junction	90	45	69	4	0.01	-0.62	1	22.99	-20.24	53	78	136	32	66	26
Montgomery_AP	92	44	70	4	0.00	-0.52	0	29.36	-13.51	68		144	22	74	20
Livingston	90	44	68	4	1.23	0.46	1	31.49	-13.50	70		129	26	60	20
District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	90	48	72	3	0.00	-0.67	0	36.67	-18.00	67		161	21	91	22
Brewton_AG	90	46	71	6	0.56	-0.11	1	44.80	-8.07	85	82	155	43	85	40
Thomasville	88	47	70	4	0.03	-0.56	1	28.51	-18.02	61		142	27	72	24
Mobile_Bates	91	51	72	3	0.00	-0.66	0	39.19	-13.94	74		157	17	87	17
District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 20% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Acreage, 3% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	89	47	71	6	0.01	-0.48	1	36.33	-5.40	87		151	40	81	37
Troy_Municipal	91	42	69	3	0.85	0.31	1	29.31	-13.26	69		136	17	66	16
Highland Home	88	39	67	0	0.03	-0.50	1	27.98	-17.48	62		120	4	53	5
Geneva_Ag	91	42	70	2	0.00	-0.68	0	40.86	-6.34	87	81	143	16	73	15
Headland	92	48	73	6	0.00	-0.60	0	28.19	-17.82	61	84	167	45	97	43
Dothan	91	47	72	5	0.00	-0.57	0	31.55	-13.37	70		156	29	86	28

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Air and Soil Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. PCT of Norm: Cumulative Rainfall since January 1 as a percent of normal (using 1961-90 normals period), 2007 Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.

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