



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



KEVIN PAUTLER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
USDA/NASS ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

RON SPARKS, COMMISSIONER  
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AG. AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578

● 1 (800) 832-4181

● RELEASED: April 2, 2007 -- 3:00 P.M.

Visit our website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/al>

Issue 1

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

## Crop Planting Slowed Due to Dry Soil Conditions

### CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, April 1, 2007

Crop	This Week	Last Week	5-Yr 2006	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	56	na	26	21

na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, March 30, 2007

Crop	Very				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Percent					
Winter Wheat	3	11	43	40	3

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	6.3	76	19	5	0
District 20	7.0	55	39	6	0
District 30	6.8	20	67	13	0
District 40	6.6	60	34	6	0
District 50	6.8	69	23	8	0
District 60	6.4	41	36	23	0
State: Current Week	6.6	58	32	10	0

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** The 2007 crop season is underway, and producers are already experiencing the adverse effects of the current drought conditions that range from abnormally dry in areas of south-eastern Alabama to extreme drought in the northern part of the state. Doyle Dutton in the Lawrence County FSA office mentioned that the county is 64 percent below normal on rainfall, and that pasture and hay grasses are not growing. Donald Mann in the Jackson County FSA office indicated that it is drier now than it was late last summer. During the past week, temperatures for the state varied from 7 to 18 degrees above normal. Some weather stations reported receiving rainfall totals ranging from 0.01 to 2.21 inches. Others received no measurable moisture. Year-to-date precipitation totals at all reporting weather stations are behind normal with deficits ranging from -4.77 inches in Eufaula to -11.09 inches in Russellville.

**Wheat:** Most of the state's winter wheat is in fair to good condition. Mr. Mann noted that Jackson County wheat has been showing stress during the heat of the day. Rudy Yates, Regional Extension Agent in Dallas County reported that some producers are spraying wheat.

**Cotton/Peanuts:** Leonard Kuykendall, Autauga County Extension Agent stated that tillage and conservation tillage "burn-down" herbicide applications have mostly been completed for cotton and peanut planting. However, producers are still uncertain about planting at this time because of the lack of rainfall and dry soil conditions. Many are waiting until a prediction of rain is made. Kris Balkcom, Peanut Specialist at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center added that peanut producers are paying close attention to the Risk Index due to the increased pressure from Tomato Spotted Wilt virus.

**Corn/Soybeans:** Alabama farmers are planning to increase the number of acres seeded to corn and soybeans for the 2007 crop season. Most corn producers started planting their crop during the beginning of March, but have now been forced to stop because of the dry soil conditions. Growers that utilize no-till planters have been unable to penetrate the ground at a deep enough level to cover the seeds. Some producers using conventional planters have continued to plant, but most are very hesitant and are waiting for some rain.

**Fruits/Vegetables:** Bobby Boozer, Extension and Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research and Extension Center reported that Alabama peach orchards have nearly finished blooming for the year. Low chill varieties are well into shuck-off, and small fruit are visible and growing. Plum curculio numbers peaked last week, and growers are busy spraying pesticides for insect and disease control. The dry weather has helped reduce the favorable conditions for diseases. Touch-up pruning and orchard floor management are some general chores that are being completed. Some locations have already begun irrigation as soil moisture levels continue to decline.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Darrell Rankins, Extension Cattle Specialist at Auburn University stated that grazing conditions across the state are acceptable, but are beginning to be limited by the lack of rainfall. Forage productivity has been adversely affected by the resistance of producers to apply fertilizers because of the input costs associated with the applications. Most beef producers have completely exhausted their hay supplies, and are hoping for some rainfall to boost pasture growth. There have been a few cases of grass tetany reported in cattle herds where winter annuals have been in good quantity. These producers are now feeding mineral supplements with high magnesium content to counter act the affects of the disease. Shane Seay in the Limestone County FSA office noted that pasture in the county is not green, and hay supplies are critically short.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday, March 26, 2007 To Sunday, April 1, 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	DF	Total	DFN
<i>District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 25% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 41% of Soybean Acreage.</i>															
Muscle Shoals	87	56	71	16	0.47	-0.76	2	6.22	-8.78	41	67	152	10	82	69
Russellville	87	54	71	18	0.14	-1.20	1	5.26	-11.09	32		150	11	80	73
Belle Mina	87	50	68	14	0.01	-1.36	1	7.54	-8.73	46		132	87	62	54
Huntsville Ag	88	56	72	17	0.06	-1.34	1	7.47	-9.38	44		155	10	85	73
Hamilton	90	48	69	16	0.10	-1.32	1	7.80	-9.24	46		141	10	71	64
<i>District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.</i>															
Anniston AP	88	55	71	14	0.00	-1.40	0	8.30	-8.39	50	63	148	89	78	64
Cullman Ag	83	53	68	13	0.65	-0.76	1	7.69	-9.94	44		130	82	60	52
Sand Mountain	84	53	68	14	0.54	-0.81	1	8.85	-7.93	53		130	91	60	53
Gadsden AP	86	50	68	13	0.02	-1.44	1	6.78	-10.29	40		131	85	61	54
Bridgeport	86	50	68	15	0.76	-0.65	1	7.84	-9.84	44		135	97	65	58
Guntersville	84	53	69	12	0.33	-1.03	1	6.15	-9.95	38		142	88	72	58
<i>District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.</i>															
Thorsby	87	54	69	12	0.13	-1.32	1	7.16	-10.36	41	73	139	80	69	55
Talladega	87	50	67	9	0.02	-1.43	1	8.49	-9.43	47		127	66	57	43
Birmingham AP	87	57	71	14	0.01	-1.33	1	7.31	-8.88	45		152	94	82	68
Alabaster	86	55	71	13	0.20	-1.30	2	7.63	-10.54	42		144	84	74	60
Pinson	87	54	70	15	0.28	-1.16	1	7.74	-9.34	45		143	96	73	66
Opelika Wtr Plt	87	52	69	12	0.07	-1.42	1	12.88	-5.08	72		136	80	66	53
Alexander City	89	53	68	11	0.05	-1.39	1	9.02	-8.82	51		131	74	61	47
Tuscaloosa AP	87	52	71	12	0.13	-1.27	1	6.72	-10.14	40		147	80	77	58
Jasper	86	53	69	14	0.39	-0.99	2	6.82	-10.72	39		138	92	68	60
<i>District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.</i>															
Union Springs	88	54	70	12	0.00	-1.27	0	8.31	-8.37	50	73	149	82	79	60
Marion Junction	86	53	70	12	0.05	-1.35	1	7.38	-9.48	44		153	90	83	69
Montgomery AP	89	56	72	12	0.00	-1.29	0	10.64	-5.96	64		157	83	87	66
Livingston	87	51	70	11	0.29	-1.14	1	6.30	-10.83	37		148	84	78	62
<i>District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 32% of Peanut Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.</i>															
Bay Minette	85	56	70	7	0.00	-1.31	0	10.75	-7.14	60	76	145	49	75	40
Brewton AG	88	53	70	9	2.21	0.92	1	13.45	-5.07	73		148	68	78	52
Thomasville	86	55	70	11	0.10	-1.30	1	9.95	-8.08	55		150	77	80	59
Mobile Bates	85	56	72	8	0.02	-1.24	1	6.56	-10.24	39		153	58	83	49
<i>District 60 Southeast Alabama - Wiregrass 23% of Corn Acreage, 27% of Cotton Acreage, 4% of Soybean Acreage, 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees.</i>															
Eufaula Wildlife	90	54	71	12	0.00	-1.21	0	11.16	-4.77	70	74	151	83	81	62
Troy Municipal	88	58	73	13	0.04	-1.21	1	7.13	-9.08	44		162	92	92	72
Highland Home	87	48	66	7	0.03	-1.34	1	9.42	-8.31	53		122	52	52	32
Geneva Ag	89	49	69	7	0.00	-1.09	0	10.85	-5.40	67		138	51	68	39
Headland	88	58	72	11	0.00	-1.12	0	8.51	-8.57	50		159	78	89	63
Dothan	89	58	73	11	0.00	-1.34	0	8.92	-8.13	52		159	72	89	60

*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.*