



CROP WEATHER

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 1

Carrie Wright, Ag. Statistician

Growers Prepare for Planting Season

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Average days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0 for the week ending April 2, 2006, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Cooperative Extension System, and the Farm Service Agency.

CROP PROGRESS				
Sunday, April 2, 2006				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg.
Percent				
Corn Planted	30	na	26	19

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION					
Friday, March 31, 2006					
Crop	Very				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Percent					
Winter Wheat	0	2	31	64	3
Pasture	6	13	43	35	3
Livestock	0	2	20	67	11

TOPSOIL MOISTURE SUPPLIES		
Supplies	Current Week	Previous Week
Very Short	6%	na
Short	21%	na
Adequate	71%	na
Surplus	2%	na

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

In the Wiregrass area, as well as other locations in the southern portion of the state, conditions were somewhat dry thus limiting forage production for cattle grazing, reported Darrell Rankins, Extension Animal Scientist for Auburn University. Soil conditions were dry with rainfall late in the week in most areas, stated Charles Burmester, Extension Agronomist. According to James Miles, Commercial Horticulture Regional Extension Agent, the row crop growers were preparing to plant in the Southwest region of the state. Most have bushhogged fields for no-till planting and some have been plowing. Crenshaw County had no rain for the week, however the ground still had some moisture due to the cool weather during March. Daytime temperatures averaged in the low 80's, and nighttime temperatures dropped below freezing in every district with the lowest temperature reported

at 20 degrees at the Hamilton Weather Station in District 10. Precipitation was minimal to none in the southern region, yet the majority of the rain circulated around the central and northern parts of the state.

Farmers spent much of the week completing corn planting and burning-down cover crops ahead of cotton planting, stated Mr. Burmester. Early planted corn that was up the previous week has been burned back to the ground due to freezing temperatures. This corn is still being evaluated at this time for damage. The corn crop has been 30 percent planted to date for the state.

Mr. Rankins stated that many cattle are still consuming hay but consumption has decreased appreciably with the spring weather conditions. In general terms, cattle prices are still holding strong.

Many of the winter annuals, rye, oats, and wheat are beginning to mature and head out. The summer grasses are still quite a ways from being productive according to Mr. Rankins. In the northern portions of the state, fescue production along with clovers are producing well. With the high prices of commercial nitrogen, many producers are exploring the potential of using broiler litter or other alternative sources of nitrogen for pasture fertilization needs. Concerns for the upcoming growing season revolve around the high price of fertilizer and fuel, with regard to the upcoming hay season. Kevan Tucker, Clarke County Extension Coordinator, reported that winter grazing and pastures are beginning to grow well.

Mr. Miles reported that vegetable growers began planting cool tolerant crops and preparing beds for heat loving crops. Fruit growers have fertilized trees, pruned and await harvest while scouting for insects and diseases. Blueberry growers in the Atmore area are seeing high populations of Blueberry Gall Midge. Bobby Boozer, Extension Research Horticulturist for Fruit Crops, reported that growers have been assessing freeze damage to orchards this week as three mornings last Saturday, Sunday, and Monday had temperatures at or below freezing in many locations. Fruit damage overall was considered moderate. In terms of crop load carried to harvest, some varieties will be short but, the overall season prospects are good. Growers have been getting fungicide and insecticide applications out for pest control. Plum Curculio numbers have been increasing with the warmer temperatures this week.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday March 27, 2006 To: Sunday April 2, 2006

Weather Station	Air Temperatures				Precipitation			Precipitation since Jan 1			Avg. 4"	GDD Base 50		GDD Base 60	
	High	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	% Normal	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Total	DFN
District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 25% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 41% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	82	32	61	6	0.48	-0.73	1	13.42	-1.74	89		86	33	35	21
Russellville	81	25	56	4	0.88	-0.44	1	14.19	-2.34	86		75	36	29	22
Belle Mina	81	22	57	3	0.74	-0.61	1	11.21	-5.24	68	56	71	25	25	16
Huntsville Ag	80	31	60	4	0.62	-0.76	1	11.22	-5.82	66		78	26	26	13
Hamilton	85	20	56	3	0.14	-1.26	2	14.78	-2.45	86		66	27	26	19
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	80	32	60	3	0.87	-0.52	4	16.85	-0.03	100		79	19	25	11
Cullman Ag	79	28	55	-2	1.62	0.23	3	16.39	-1.22	93	56	57	7	17	8
Sand Mountain	77	31	57	4	0.97	-0.37	1	11.66	-4.70	71	56	70	30	23	16
Gadsden AP	81	27	58	2	0.64	-0.81	3	12.17	-5.10	70		63	16	21	14
Bridgeport	81	26	55	2	0.65	-0.74	1	12.37	-5.28	70		60	21	17	10
Guntersville	81	28	56	-2	0.58	-0.77	4	12.28	-3.59	77		62	6	18	4
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	81	33	60	3	0.08	-1.36	4	11.88	-5.84	67	59	90	30	35	21
Talladega	79	27	58	-2	0.36	-1.07	2	15.62	-2.27	87		78	16	28	14
Birmingham_AP	81	41	63	5	0.32	-1.00	4	18.68	2.31	114		89	30	33	19
Alabaster	80	37	62	4	0.22	-1.27	4	15.71	-2.67	85		87	26	30	16
Pinson	83	30	60	5	0.19	-1.24	1	16.33	-0.95	95		85	37	32	25
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	81	29	59	2	0.19	-1.29	3	15.25	-2.92	84		72	14	21	7
Alexander_City	79	23	57	-2	0.09	-1.33	1	14.87	-3.16	82		75	16	28	14
Tuscaloosa_AP	83	32	62	3	0.23	-1.17	2	15.24	-1.82	89		89	21	31	11
Jasper	82	30	57	2	0.40	-0.97	2	19.03	1.30	107		73	26	26	17
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	83	33	62	3	0.02	-1.23	1	9.51	-7.34	56		93	25	37	17
Marion Junction	81	32	61	3	0.00	-1.40	0	11.84	-5.22	69	62	90	25	32	17
Montgomery_AP	83	33	62	2	0.03	-1.24	3	13.07	-3.70	78		91	15	34	12
Livingston	83	31	62	3	0.25	-1.17	2	15.24	-2.09	88		100	34	40	23
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	82	34	64	-1	0.00	-1.28	0	9.72	-8.34	54		112	14	54	18
Brewton_AG	87	30	62	1	0.00	-1.26	0	10.29	-8.40	55	67	101	20	43	16
Thomasville	84	35	63	3	0.00	-1.37	0	13.73	-4.25	76		103	29	44	23
Mobile_Bates	83	38	65	2	0.00	-1.24	0	7.36	-9.61	43		110	13	52	16
District 60 Southeast Alabama - Wiregrass 23% of Corn Acreage, 27% of Cotton Acreage, 4% of Soybean Acreage, 96% of Peanut Ac., 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	82	30	63	4	0.00	-1.19	0	12.19	-3.32	79		103	33	47	27
Troy_Municipal	83	31	63	3	0.00	-1.23	0	10.77	-5.61	66		95	23	39	18
Highland Home	82	28	59	-2	0.00	-1.34	0	11.64	-6.27	65		83	11	30	9
Geneva_Ag	84	29	60	-4	0.00	-1.07	0	11.51	-4.88	70	66	82	-6	27	-3
Headland	82	37	63	2	0.00	-1.10	0	8.86	-8.37	51	76	105	22	47	20
Dothan	85	35	64	2	0.00	-1.32	0	10.24	-6.99	59		102	14	44	14

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) , 2005. Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc.

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