



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



BILL WEAVER, 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 7, 2008 -- 3:00 P.M.
Visit our website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/al> **Issue 1**

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Soil Moisture Off to Adequate Start for 2008 Crop Season

The data reflects the week ending: April 6, 2008.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	34	na	62	39
Corn Emerged	8	na	35	16
Cotton Planted	0	na	1	1

Na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	1	15	64	20
Livestock	0	7	27	64	2
Pasture & Range	2	14	33	44	7

Crop	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Hay & Roughage Supplies	63	36	1

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	3.3	0	29	67	4
District 20	3.4	0	0	94	6
District 30	3.5	0	0	100	0
District 40	4.1	2	10	78	10
District 50	4.0	2	3	47	48
District 60	5.9	10	19	71	0
State: Current Week	4.2	3	16	73	8

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS: General: Alabama producers began the 2008 crop season faced with higher input costs for fertilizer and fuel combined with volatile feed prices and market conditions, all while trying to recover from devastating drought conditions that wreaked havoc on many farmers and ranchers last year. The exceptional drought conditions that lingered throughout last year have been alleviated by timely rainfall so far this year. However, extreme hydrological drought conditions persisted, encompassing nearly 34 percent of the state from central to north-eastern Alabama, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released for April 1, 2008. Temperatures for the state were abnormally warm for this time of year at all reporting weather stations, and reached as many as 7 degrees above normal in Pinson and Brewton. Daytime highs of 87 degrees were recorded in Eufaula, Geneva, and Dothan. Precipitation was abundant towards the end of the week, as a storm system dropped upwards of eight inches of rainfall in the Mobile area.

Moisture totals ranged from 1.18 inches in Sand Mountain to 8.69 inches in Mobile. Year-to-date precipitation totals were behind for many areas, even with the frequent rain showers that have moved across the state. The weather station in Gadsden was nearly 7.5 inches below normal.

Small Grains: Charles Burmester, Extension Agronomist at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center, indicated that the wheat crop in northern Alabama was in excellent condition. Producers were busy with fertilizer applications, as well as fungicide applications to treat the powdery mildew contamination in some wheat stands due to the recent moisture received in many areas of the state. Alex Brand, County Executive Director in the Wilcox County FSA office, reported that the wheat in the area looked good, and the majority of producers were planning on following their wheat crop with soybeans, or possibly cotton.

Corn/Cotton/Soybeans: Thomas D. Atkinson, County Executive Director in the Madison County FSA office, stated that corn planting was approximately one week behind due to the wet spring. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent located in Autauga County, noted that burn-down herbicides were being applied to fields in preparation for cotton, corn, and soybean planting. Some producers had begun planting their corn fields, while others were busy with tillage operations. Mr. Brand added that producers in the Wilcox County area were not planting corn because of the high cost of fertilizer.

Fruits/Vegetables: Producers across the state battled a cold front and freezing temperatures at the end of March that damaged peach trees already in full bloom. Bobby Boozer, Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research and Extension Center, reported that flower damage ranged from 5 to 90 percent depending on the orchard's location. However, the outlook for this year's crop potential was still good. Insect pressure from plum curculio was low. Early season management was recommended as alternate row insecticide applications. Dawn Hoagland, County Executive Director in the Blount County FSA office, added that the strawberry crop looked good, and several U-Pick operations would be opened soon. Some plum varieties were destroyed by the freezing temperatures in late March. Vegetable growers were busy laying plastic in preparation for spring planting.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent located in Talladega County, mentioned that pasture conditions improved with the recent rainfall, but most producers continued to feed supplements to their herds. Brenda Glover, Regional Extension Agent located in Hale County, indicated that pasture grass in the west-central area of the state was growing well with warmer temperatures and adequate rainfall received during the past few weeks. Kenneth Kelly, Regional Extension Agent located in Mobile County, stated that winter annuals and clover in south-western Alabama were in fair to good condition.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, March 31, 2008 To Sunday, April 6, 2008

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 40% of Corn Ac., 32% of Cotton Ac., 41% of Soybean Ac.															
Muscle Shoals	76	47	60	3	2.38	1.27	6	11.35	-4.59	71	58	71	11	14	0
Russellville	77	47	58	3	2.87	1.64	5	14.17	-3.23	81		65	21	13	6
Belle Mina	79	45	57	0	2.15	0.90	6	13.66	-3.67	79		57	4	7	-6
Huntsville Ag	77	47	60	3	2.10	0.83	7	13.33	-4.60	74		69	10	11	-3
Hamilton	80	41	60	6	2.74	1.40	5	16.18	-2.00	89		76	30	18	11
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 5% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.															
Anniston AP	78	48	62	4	1.49	0.15	4	16.53	-1.30	93	61	87	20	27	12
Cullman Ag	80	47	59	2	1.60	0.26	5	18.09	-0.68	96		66	10	14	1
Sand Mountain	77	44	56	1	1.18	-0.11	3	15.75	-2.13	88		49	3	4	-3
Gadsden_AP	77	48	61	5	1.29	-0.11	5	10.79	-7.48	59		81	26	20	9
Bridgeport	76	48	58	3	1.61	0.31	4	16.57	-2.22	88		58	13	3	-4
Guntersville	78	49	59	0	1.80	0.52	6	14.58	-2.61	85	67	4	10	-4	
District 30 North Central Alabama - 9% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	81	50	64	5	1.67	0.29	4	13.92	-4.78	74	64	100	33	34	15
Talladega	82	49	62	3	1.78	0.45	4	16.17	-2.87	85		85	17	24	7
Birmingham_AP	82	50	64	6	2.09	0.85	4	15.45	-1.80	90		99	33	37	21
Alabaster	81	50	64	6	2.59	1.17	4	17.66	-1.72	91		101	34	36	21
Pinson	84	50	64	7	1.62	0.26	3	14.95	-3.29	82		96	42	34	22
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	82	46	62	4	2.41	0.99	2	17.89	-1.28	93	86	22	30	16	
Alexander_City	81	46	61	3	2.66	1.34	4	18.66	-0.30	98	82	16	29	15	
Tuscaloosa_AP	82	50	66	6	1.26	-0.10	3	14.73	-3.29	82	113	37	45	23	
Jasper	80	49	62	6	1.52	0.23	2	16.44	-2.19	88	88	34	24	11	
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 10% of Corn Ac., 12% of Cotton Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	84	47	65	5	1.78	0.62	3	13.25	-4.42	75	69	111	35	49	28
Marion Junction	82	52	65	5	2.01	0.66	4	14.65	-3.36	81		109	36	43	23
Montgomery_AP	84	51	67	6	2.40	1.22	3	14.64	-2.96	83		117	33	48	21
Livingston	82	50	64	5	2.20	0.81	4	16.24	-2.08	89		108	34	41	20
District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Ac., 20% of Cotton Ac., 11% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	83	55	68	4	7.60	6.43	3	22.41	3.53	119	71	137	31	67	26
Brewton_AG	83	54	69	7	4.43	3.30	3	21.39	1.91	110		134	44	64	33
Thomasville	82	54	66	5	2.43	1.21	4	17.00	-2.06	89		118	35	50	24
Mobile_Bates	82	58	69	5	8.69	7.57	3	22.18	4.43	125		135	29	65	24
District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 18% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Ac., 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	87	43	66	6	4.30	3.21	3	19.47	2.61	115	72	120	42	57	35
Troy_Municipal	84	49	66	6	2.61	1.48	3	18.16	0.99	106		114	34	46	22
Highland Home	81	50	64	3	2.41	1.20	4	20.11	1.35	107		103	23	35	11
Geneva_Ag	87	49	69	6	3.77	2.79	2	20.35	3.27	119		143	48	73	38
Headland	85	48	67	5	3.33	2.29	3	16.72	-1.25	93		74	128	36	60
Dothan	87	50	69	6	2.86	1.67	2	15.13	-2.92	84	136	41	66	31	

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), 2008. Weather data prepared by AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 36124
PERMIT NO. G-38

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Statistician
P. O. Box 240578
Montgomery, Alabama 36124-0578

Official Business
Penalty For Private Use, \$300
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED