



# CROP WEATHER

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 2

Darien Lee, Ag. Statistician

## North Alabama Crops Received Rain

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Average days suitable for fieldwork were 6.1 for the week ending April 7, 2006, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Cooperative Extension System, and the Farm Service Agency.

CROP PROGRESS	Sunday, April 9, 2006			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	45	30	36	33
Corn Emerged	24	na	na	na
Cotton Planted	1	na	1	2

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION	Friday, April 7, 2006				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	4	43	48	5
Pasture	10	18	38	31	3
Livestock	0	2	29	58	11

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE SUPPLIES

Supplies	Current Week	Previous Week
Very Short	17%	6%
Short	25%	21%
Adequate	51%	71%
Surplus	7%	2%

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

Conditions were very dry as the week came to a close, but late Friday to Saturday morning, much of the state received severe rains. Storms brought from 2-5 inches of rain to Colbert, Lawrence, Lauderdale, and Franklin counties. Regional County Extension Agent, Dan Porch in Northeast Alabama, stated that there were rain and hail storms across the area Friday evening and early Saturday morning, leaving 1-2 inches of rain. Southeast Extension Agent, William Birdsong, stated that we are currently under the influence of La Nina, meaning that the warming of the waters off the western coast of Africa is influencing the weather patterns in Southeastern United States. La

Nina is predicted to be mild and normally should break down by mid May.

Mr. Birdsong mentioned that corn planting is complete and seems to be doing well. The dry conditions have stopped all land preparation. Lawrence County Extension, Heath Potter, stated that lots of planted corn was up and looking good. Some of the corn was being replanted after cold weather damage. In Autauga County, corn planting was wrapping up and the corn planted in mid March was slowly emerging.

Autauga County Extension agent, Leonard Kuykendall, said that burndown for cotton planting was almost complete, and field preparation with para or strip tilling was almost complete for cotton planting. Most cotton planting will start around Easter. Adequate moisture and temperatures will determine planting.

Pastures are very dry and farmers are feeding hay on a regular basis, according to Mr. Birdsong. Moisture was very short in the area but rains are needed for all aspects of production agriculture. Conditions may have changed due to the rains on Saturday.

Some farmers are switching to alternative crops, such as blueberries. This past fall/winter season there have been over 100 acres of blueberries planted in Southeast Alabama. Predictions are that this time next year there will be over 200 acres of blueberries, according to Mr. Birdsong. Mr. Porch also stated that prior to the rainfall and storms, some early season vegetable crops were planted on plastic. Furthermore, applications of fungicides and insecticides were applied to peaches. Strawberry harvest was underway. James Pitts from Auburn Extension stated last week's weather did not negatively impact our fruit crops in our area. Hail was scattered but fruit was large enough to be at minimal risk of hail. Peaches were progressing nicely, there were some concerns with leaf color, probably the result of the freeze the last weekend in March and maybe some copper fungicides used to control bacterial spot, stated Mr. Pitts.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday April 3, 2006 To: Sunday April 9, 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
<b>District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 25% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 41% of Soybean Acreage.</b>															
Muscle Shoals	83	40	63	5	2.26	1.18	2	15.68	-0.56	97		95	32	38	23
Russellville	82	38	61	6	1.92	0.71	2	16.11	-1.63	91		91	45	33	26
Belle Mina	85	29	58	0	2.12	0.9	2	13.4	-4.27	76	62	65	8	24	10
Huntsville Ag	82	39	63	5	1.7	0.47	2	12.92	-5.35	71		92	31	36	22
Hamilton	85	32	60	4	2.75	1.43	2	17.53	-1.02	95		81	32	31	23
<b>District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.</b>															
Anniston AP	84	39	65	5	0.2	-1.12	3	17.05	-1.15	94		104	34	41	24
Cullman Ag	82	36	60	2	1.73	0.41	2	18.12	-0.81	96	61	83	24	26	12
Sand Mountain	80	36	60	4	1.15	-0.12	2	12.81	-4.82	73	63	76	27	26	19
Gadsden_AP	82	36	62	5	0.68	-0.71	2	12.85	-5.81	69		84	25	31	18
Bridgeport	83	34	59	4	1.96	0.68	2	14.33	-4.6	76		75	28	25	18
Guntersville	82	38	61	2	1.5	0.25	3	13.78	-3.34	80		92	26	32	17
<b>District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.</b>															
Thorsby	85	42	65	6	1.41	0.05	3	13.29	-5.79	70	64	114	43	48	27
Talladega	83	34	61	2	1.08	-0.21	3	16.7	-2.48	87		89	17	30	11
Birmingham_AP	85	38	64	5	1.34	0.12	3	20.02	2.43	114		100	32	38	20
Alabaster	84	42	65	6	1.33	-0.05	4	17.04	-2.72	86		107	37	41	24
Pinson	85	35	62	5	0.96	-0.38	3	17.29	-1.33	93		97	39	37	23
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	83	35	62	3	2	0.62	1	17.19	-2.36	88		91	25	28	14
Alexander_City	83	33	61	2	0.68	-0.61	3	15.55	-3.77	80		86	17	25	9
Tuscaloosa_AP	88	40	66	6	1.07	-0.27	2	16.31	-2.09	89		116	36	49	25
Jasper	84	38	62	5	0.85	-0.42	2	19.88	0.88	105		95	37	35	21
<b>District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.</b>															
Union Springs	87	38	66	5	0.51	-0.62	1	10.02	-7.96	56		117	37	50	27
Marion Junction	86	42	66	6	0.61	-0.71	3	12.45	-5.93	68	68	124	48	56	35
Montgomery_AP	88	41	67	5	0.61	-0.54	3	13.68	-4.24	76		121	34	53	25
Livingston	89	41	66	6	1.13	-0.24	2	16.37	-2.33	88		127	49	60	38
<b>District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.</b>															
Bay Minette	87	47	69	4	0.14	-0.99	1	9.86	-9.33	51		142	33	72	28
Brewton_AG	87	39	67	5	0.08	-1.01	1	10.37	-9.41	52	74	130	36	61	28
Thomasville	87	41	67	5	0	-1.17	0	13.73	-5.42	72		127	40	57	29
Mobile_Bates	87	47	71	6	0.36	-0.72	1	7.72	-10.33	43		149	40	79	35
<b>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.</b>															
Eufaula_Wildlife	85	42	65	4	0.99	-0.06	2	13.18	-3.38	80		119	38	49	25
Troy_Municipal	87	39	67	6	0.86	-0.23	1	11.63	-5.84	67		118	35	51	25
Highland Home	86	37	64	3	1.25	0.08	1	12.89	-6.19	68		105	22	42	16
Geneva_Ag	88	39	66	3	0.66	-0.29	1	12.17	-5.17	70	74	123	24	54	17
Headland	86	46	68	5	0.16	-0.86	1	9.02	-9.23	49	80	136	41	66	32
Dothan	89	45	70	7	0.31	-0.82	1	10.55	-7.81	57		139	40	69	33

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) , 2006 Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc.

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