



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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## Wheat Crop Looks Good; Spring Planting Lags Behind

Data tables reflect the week ending: **April 13, 2008.**

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	52	34	72	51
Corn Emerged	22	8	43	28
Cotton Planted	1	0	3	5
Soybeans Planted	0	na	1	1

Na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	0	15	65	20
Livestock	0	10	33	55	2
Pasture & Range	2	10	29	50	9

Crop	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Hay & Roughage Supply	54	42	4

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	4.0	6	23	67	4
District 20	4.4	0	3	94	3
District 30	3.0	0	0	100	0
District 40	4.5	0	4	86	10
District 50	4.3	0	3	68	29
District 60	4.8	0	3	82	15
State: Current Week	4.4	2	8	79	11
State: Previous Week	4.2	3	16	73	8

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** A number of Alabama producers held off on planting their fields because of expected cool to possibly freezing temperatures for many areas across the state during the next week. The drought conditions that plagued most of the state last year continued to improve, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released for April 8, 2008. Just over 25 percent of Alabama's streams, rivers, and ponds were indicated as still suffering from exceptional hydrological drought. Temperatures for the past week reached as many as 8 degrees above normal. Daytimes highs ranged from 78 degrees in Bridgeport to a sweltering 87 degrees in Dothan. Overnight lows dipped below freezing to 28 degrees in Russellville. All reporting weather stations received rainfall for the second straight week. However, the majority of accumulations were below average for this

time of year. Totals ranged from 0.13 inches in Geneva to 1.29 inches in Birmingham, the only location to receive more precipitation than normal.

**Small Grains:** The majority of the 2008 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition. Wheat stands in Covington County were beginning to head. Brandon Dillard, Regional Extension Agent located in Geneva County, indicated that the small grains in the area had shown some drought stress, but timely rainfall alleviated the drying conditions. Fungicide applications were made to some wheat fields.

**Corn/Cotton/Soybeans:** Spring planting continued to lag behind last year's progress for corn, cotton, and soybeans. Cool temperatures and wet fields have limited the number of days available for fieldwork in some areas. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent located in Autauga County, reported that producers were wrapping up their corn planting, while preparing for cotton planting with tillage operations and burn-down applications. Alex Brand, County Executive Director in the Wilcox County FSA office, noted that some corn in the area had been planted, with most already emerged.

**Fruits/Vegetables/Specialty Crops:** Dawn Hoagland, County Executive Director in the Blount County FSA office, stated that many strawberry producers opened their U-Pick operations during the past week, and were looking to utilize row covers for protection against the forecasted freezing temperatures during the next couple of days. Bruce West, County Executive Director in the Mobile County FSA office, added that fruit and vegetable conditions in the area were good at this time, and the sod crop had good soil moisture.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Pasture conditions were reported in mostly good to excellent condition during the past week. T.H. Gregg, Regional Extension Agent located in Etowah County, noted that pasture rye grass was growing well. Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent located in Talladega County, mentioned that continued rains coupled with recent fertilizer applications brought pastures in the area back to good condition. Bahia pastures and hay fields began to show some growth. However, weed pressure brought on by two years of drought conditions was forcing producers to take action. Kenneth Kelly, Regional Extension Agent located in Mobile County, reported some winter annuals remained decent, while the condition of others took a downward turn. Hay supplies that remained from last year's crop were short, as producers were forced to feed hay earlier during the fall and winter months. Olin F. Farnior, County Extension Coordinator for Escambia County, indicated that livestock body condition scores continued to be poor in a substantial part of the county's breeding herd. This was attributed to the lack of feedstuffs available last summer and fall. Mr. Kelley added that cattle markets were steady to somewhat slower during the past week.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, April 7, 2008 To Sunday, April 13, 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	81	36	64	4	0.40	-0.61	1	11.75	-5.20	69		97	26	41	21
Russellville	81	28	62	6	0.30	-0.86	1	14.47	-4.09	78		92	39	36	24
Belle Mina	81	36	61	3	0.65	-0.50	1	14.31	-4.17	77	62	88	23	30	15
Huntsville Ag	83	38	65	6	0.85	-0.30	1	14.18	-4.90	74		106	37	45	26
Hamilton	84	30	62	5	0.31	-0.96	1	16.49	-2.96	85		89	33	37	24
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 5% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.															
Anniston AP	83	39	67	6	0.75	-0.52	1	17.28	-1.82	90		119	41	54	33
Cullman Ag	81	36	62	4	0.50	-0.77	1	18.59	-1.45	93	64	95	29	34	19
Sand Mountain	80	38	62	5	0.63	-0.59	1	16.38	-2.72	86		87	31	25	13
Gadsden_AP	82	37	65	6	0.67	-0.67	1	11.46	-8.15	58		106	40	42	28
Bridgeport	78	38	61	5	0.18	-1.03	1	16.75	-3.25	84		86	32	24	13
Guntersville	81	38	64	4	0.48	-0.72	1	15.06	-3.33	82		103	30	40	20
District 30 North Central Alabama - 9% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	84	39	67	6	0.50	-0.79	1	14.61	-5.38	73	67	122	43	57	33
Talladega	85	37	65	5	0.34	-0.86	3	16.51	-3.73	82		111	32	46	25
Birmingham_AP	82	42	67	7	1.29	0.13	1	16.74	-1.67	91		120	45	54	33
Alabaster	82	41	67	6	1.27	-0.04	1	18.93	-1.76	91		118	42	53	32
Pinson	82	36	66	8	0.96	-0.33	1	15.91	-3.62	81		112	47	48	34
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	84	38	64	5	0.52	-0.78	3	18.41	-2.06	90		109	35	47	28
Alexander_City	82	40	64	4	0.93	-0.28	2	19.59	-0.58	97		109	32	44	23
Tuscaloosa_AP	86	38	68	6	0.31	-1.00	1	15.04	-4.29	78		124	37	59	31
Jasper	83	36	64	6	0.30	-0.92	1	16.74	-3.11	84		105	40	44	29
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	85	41	65	3	0.42	-0.63	3	13.67	-5.05	73		118	30	54	26
Marion Junction	83	42	67	5	0.49	-0.77	1	15.14	-4.13	79	72	124	40	58	33
Montgomery_AP	85	43	68	5	0.43	-0.65	3	15.07	-3.61	81		129	34	63	31
Livingston	85	39	65	4	0.53	-0.80	1	16.77	-2.88	85		117	30	52	25
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	45	68	2	0.38	-0.67	2	22.79	2.86	114		129	12	63	13
Brewton_AG	83	43	65	2	0.43	-0.57	2	21.82	1.34	107	70	110	9	45	8
Thomasville	82	41	66	3	0.35	-0.73	2	17.35	-2.79	86		119	24	53	20
Mobile_Bates	82	45	68	2	0.37	-0.64	2	22.55	3.79	120		128	11	62	11
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	85	44	66	5	0.53	-0.43	3	20.00	2.18	112		117	29	50	22
Troy_Municipal	85	41	68	5	0.31	-0.69	2	18.47	0.30	102		124	32	57	27
Highland Home	83	40	65	3	0.69	-0.38	2	20.80	0.97	105		110	18	47	17
Geneva_Ag	86	42	67	3	0.13	-0.75	2	20.48	2.52	114	73	124	16	60	18
Headland	86	47	68	3	0.32	-0.65	3	17.25	-1.69	91	75	126	22	59	20
Dothan	87	48	69	4	0.15	-0.87	3	15.28	-3.79	80		133	26	65	24

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](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.

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