



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 3

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Severe Freeze Damages Crops

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, April 15, 2007

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | 2006 | 5-Yr Avg. |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|
| | | | | |
| Corn Planted | 75 | 65 | 62 | 50 |
| Corn Emerged | 45 | na | 38 | 21 |
| Cotton Planted | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| Soybeans Planted | 2 | na | 5 | 1 |

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, April 13, 2007

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Exc. |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | |
| Winter Wheat | 23 | 15 | 27 | 32 | 3 |
| Livestock | 3 | 10 | 44 | 40 | 3 |
| Pasture & Range | 6 | 17 | 52 | 24 | 1 |

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

| | Days Suitable | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | | | | | |
| District 10 | 5.1 | 18 | 33 | 41 | 8 |
| District 20 | 4.8 | 3 | 48 | 49 | 0 |
| District 30 | 5.3 | 3 | 56 | 40 | 1 |
| District 40 | 5.6 | 4 | 41 | 53 | 2 |
| District 50 | 5.1 | 20 | 14 | 51 | 15 |
| District 60 | 6.1 | 13 | 17 | 67 | 3 |
| State: Previous Week | 5.3 | 34 | 36 | 30 | 0 |
| State: Current Week | 5.4 | 11 | 34 | 51 | 4 |

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Temperatures during the past week were well below average, with Hamilton reaching a low of 23 degrees and Brewton recording the week's high at 85 degrees. All weather stations reported receiving rainfall with totals ranging from 0.19 inches in Gadsden to 3.38 inches in Troy. However, the year-to-date accumulations for most of the state remain drastically below normal. James D. Jones, Jr., Henry County Extension Agent stated that the county received some much needed moisture, along with cool temperatures during the past week.

Wheat/Corn: After a week of evaluation, farmers and extension specialists have found that the heavy frost and freezing temperatures experienced by Alabama farmers in the northwestern regions on April 6, 7 and 8th caused major damage the wheat and corn crops. J. Heath Potter, Extension Agent for Colbert, Lauderdale and Lawrence Counties indicated that a percentage of the wheat crop will recover, but maturity

will be delayed. Doyle Dutton in the Lawrence County FSA office added that wheat has been severely hurt by the freeze due to the mature stage of growth it was in. The corn in Lawrence County that was beyond the 6th or 7th leaf stage was killed. The younger crop should survive. Mark Hall, Regional Extension Agent in northwestern Alabama stated that wheat and corn in Limestone, Madison and Morgan Counties suffered severe damage. Thomas D. Atkinson in the Madison County FSA office reported that the wheat crop in the county appears to be a total loss, while the corn crop suffered an approximate 50 percent loss. The injured corn crop's ability to recover will depend on the amount of rain received, and the growing conditions throughout the remainder of the season. Dan Porch, Regional Extension Agent in northeastern Alabama noted that some producers have already started replanting their corn crops. Other farmers may switch their corn fields to cotton. Leonard Kuykendall, Autauga County Extension Agent mentioned that most growers in the county missed the cold temperatures. The wheat received minimal damage, and the corn has turned a light green or yellowish color, but is expected to come back.

Cotton/Peanuts: Kris Balkcom, Peanut Specialist at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center reported that most peanut land is prepared with the exception of land that is being used to graze cattle. A majority of producers are waiting for a soaking rain to allow them to complete their deep tillage operations in those fields.

Fruits/Vegetables: Jim Pitts, Chilton County Research and Extension Center Superintendent reported that early results show as much as 50 percent of the peach crop could be lost this year, with the most damage occurring at lower elevations. Some orchard producers chose to utilize helicopters to help raise the temperatures of the fruit in the field. Blueberry and blackberry plantings in northwestern and northeastern areas of the state have been completely lost, while central parts of Alabama only suffered heavy losses to the blueberry and blackberry crops. Strawberry crops with protective coverings pulled through in good condition. Mr. Porch noted that strawberry harvest is underway on some u-pick operations that protected the crop with row covers. The growers that used water in an attempt to protect their strawberries ended up losing most of the fruit and blooms that were present. Mr. Dutton stated that growers in Lawrence County lost their entire peach, apple and strawberry crops. Extension Horticulturist, Bobby Boozer, noted that time is needed for marginally damaged fruit to show the full extent of injury.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: The majority of pastures are reported to be in fair to good condition following a week of good rainfall. Alabama livestock remain in fair to good condition. John S. Pulliam, Macon County Extension Agent stated that early warm temperatures had helped in starting hayfield growth, but that has slowed with the cooler temperatures during the last week.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday, April 9, 2007 To Sunday, April 15, 2007

| 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 32% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 39% of Soybean Acreage. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muscle Shoals | 73 | 38 | 54 | -7 | 1.17 | 0.17 | 4 | 8.10 | -8.99 | 47 | | 35 | -38 | 2 | -19 |
| Russellville | 73 | 25 | 51 | -7 | 0.97 | -0.18 | 4 | 6.95 | -11.77 | 37 | | 31 | -23 | 0 | -13 |
| Belle Mina | 71 | 32 | 50 | -9 | 2.85 | 1.71 | 4 | 11.03 | -7.61 | 59 | 59 | 19 | -47 | 0 | -16 |
| Huntsville Ag | 72 | 39 | 54 | -7 | 1.53 | 0.39 | 3 | 9.72 | -9.52 | 51 | | 35 | -36 | 1 | -19 |
| Hamilton | 75 | 23 | 51 | -8 | 1.59 | 0.33 | 4 | 10.07 | -9.56 | 51 | | 25 | -33 | 0 | -14 |
| District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 21% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 35% of Soybean Acreage. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anniston AP | 76 | 34 | 55 | -7 | 0.32 | -0.94 | 2 | 9.36 | -9.92 | 49 | | 46 | -34 | 6 | -15 |
| Cullman Ag | 70 | 30 | 50 | -10 | 1.16 | -0.10 | 4 | 10.60 | -9.62 | 52 | 57 | 26 | -41 | 0 | -16 |
| Sand Mountain | 66 | 29 | 49 | -10 | 0.41 | -0.80 | 3 | 10.63 | -8.64 | 55 | | 21 | -37 | 0 | -13 |
| Gadsden_AP | 70 | 32 | 52 | -9 | 0.19 | -1.14 | 2 | 7.30 | -12.50 | 37 | | 29 | -38 | 0 | -15 |
| Bridgeport | 66 | 30 | 48 | -11 | 2.02 | 0.82 | 3 | 10.62 | -9.55 | 53 | | 12 | -44 | 0 | -12 |
| Guntersville | 67 | 37 | 52 | -10 | 1.40 | 0.21 | 4 | 8.53 | -10.03 | 46 | | 34 | -40 | 0 | -21 |
| District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 8% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thorsby | 81 | 36 | 56 | -6 | 1.12 | -0.16 | 4 | 8.81 | -11.36 | 44 | 60 | 57 | -23 | 10 | -15 |
| Talladega | 74 | 26 | 52 | -10 | 0.96 | -0.22 | 2 | 10.34 | -10.07 | 51 | | 39 | -41 | 3 | -18 |
| Birmingham_AP | 74 | 40 | 56 | -6 | 0.22 | -0.93 | 3 | 7.95 | -10.62 | 43 | | 45 | -32 | 6 | -15 |
| Alabaster | 74 | 41 | 56 | -6 | 0.52 | -0.78 | 3 | 8.97 | -11.90 | 43 | | 45 | -33 | 4 | -17 |
| Pinson | 74 | 37 | 54 | -6 | 0.25 | -1.03 | 2 | 8.44 | -11.27 | 43 | | 39 | -27 | 3 | -11 |
| Opelika_Wtr_Plt | 77 | 32 | 55 | -7 | 0.90 | -0.39 | 1 | 14.18 | -6.47 | 69 | | 43 | -32 | 3 | -17 |
| Alexander_City | 77 | 32 | 53 | -9 | 2.19 | 1.00 | 3 | 12.16 | -8.17 | 60 | | 41 | -38 | 3 | -18 |
| Tuscaloosa_AP | 78 | 37 | 56 | -7 | 0.68 | -0.62 | 3 | 7.57 | -11.94 | 39 | | 46 | -42 | 3 | -26 |
| Jasper | 73 | 26 | 51 | -9 | 0.95 | -0.26 | 2 | 8.87 | -11.16 | 44 | | 31 | -35 | 0 | -16 |
| District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 11% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 9% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Union Springs | 80 | 35 | 58 | -6 | 2.40 | 1.37 | 2 | 12.23 | -6.63 | 65 | | 64 | -25 | 12 | -16 |
| Marion Junction | 78 | 37 | 57 | -7 | 0.86 | -0.38 | 3 | 8.67 | -10.77 | 45 | 66 | 60 | -26 | 10 | -16 |
| Montgomery_AP | 80 | 39 | 59 | -5 | 1.64 | 0.57 | 2 | 13.13 | -5.70 | 70 | | 69 | -28 | 14 | -19 |
| Livingston | 83 | 34 | 55 | -8 | 0.40 | -0.92 | 2 | 7.35 | -12.48 | 37 | | 51 | -37 | 7 | -21 |
| District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bay Minette | 84 | 41 | 62 | -6 | 0.93 | -0.10 | 2 | 14.55 | -5.52 | 72 | | 93 | -26 | 36 | -15 |
| Brewton_AG | 85 | 39 | 59 | -6 | 1.41 | 0.43 | 2 | 22.62 | 2.01 | 110 | 64 | 80 | -22 | 24 | -14 |
| Thomasville | 82 | 37 | 57 | -8 | 2.62 | 1.55 | 2 | 14.66 | -5.63 | 72 | | 64 | -33 | 18 | -16 |
| Mobile_Bates | 83 | 46 | 63 | -5 | 1.29 | 0.29 | 2 | 12.21 | -6.69 | 65 | | 90 | -29 | 31 | -21 |
| District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 20% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Acreage, 3% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eufaula_Wildlife | 83 | 32 | 60 | -4 | 1.61 | 0.66 | 3 | 14.21 | -3.74 | 79 | | 82 | -8 | 30 | 1 |
| Troy_Municipal | 81 | 34 | 59 | -5 | 3.38 | 2.40 | 3 | 12.94 | -5.36 | 71 | | 69 | -25 | 18 | -13 |
| Highland Home | 80 | 31 | 54 | -10 | 2.05 | 1.00 | 3 | 12.98 | -6.99 | 65 | | 45 | -49 | 3 | -28 |
| Geneva_Ag | 84 | 36 | 58 | -8 | 2.18 | 1.31 | 2 | 17.54 | -0.54 | 97 | 67 | 69 | -40 | 19 | -24 |
| Headland | 83 | 40 | 61 | -5 | 2.82 | 1.86 | 2 | 14.68 | -4.39 | 77 | 74 | 87 | -19 | 34 | -6 |
| Dothan | 84 | 40 | 61 | -4 | 1.79 | 0.78 | 2 | 13.68 | -5.54 | 71 | | 82 | -26 | 30 | -12 |

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 or call 1-888-798-9955.

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