



# CROP WEATHER

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 3

Carrie Wright, Ag. Statistician

## Drought Conditions throughout the State

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Average days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3 for the week ending April 14, 2006, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Cooperative Extension System, and the Farm Service Agency.

CROP PROGRESS					Sunday, April 16, 2006				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg.	Percent				
Corn Planted	65	45	43	47					
Corn Emerged	40	24	na	17					
Cotton Planted	9	1	8	9					
Soybeans Planted	6	na	na	na					

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION						Friday, April 14, 2006					
Crop	Very					Exc.	Percent				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.						
Winter Wheat	0	7	27	63	3						
Pasture	12	21	38	25	4						
Livestock	1	3	38	53	5						

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE SUPPLIES

Supplies	Current Week	Previous Week
Very Short	19%	17%
Short	39%	25%
Adequate	41%	51%
Surplus	1%	7%

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

In the Headland area and south into Houston County, little rainfall of any significance has occurred since early March reported Ron Weeks, Extension Entomologist for Auburn University at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center. Weather conditions are extremely dry for the spring stated Russell Parrish Jr. Extension Agent for Crenshaw County. Many Extension and FSA agents reported that conditions are very dry and that rain is needed. No rainfall was reported for the state for the week. Temperatures were recorded in the mid 80's into the low 90's for the week with low temperatures ranging

from the mid 30's to the low 50's. Total precipitation since January is for the most part in a deficit.

Mr. Weeks stated that a few growers have started to "dust in" some of their cotton trying to make use of their time. Growers still have a lot of winter grazing acreage that they cannot work up due to dry soil conditions. Some growers continue to put out pre-plant incorporated herbicides in an effort to be ready to plant when the rain does come. Windy conditions over the last week have hampered growers' ability to spray fields located in more sensitive areas. Leonard Kuykendall Regional Extension Agent reported that it is very dry in Autauga County, and cotton planting will begin as soon as it rains.

Dry land corn is not making normal growth because of the lack of moisture stated Mr. Weeks. Tim Reed, Franklin County FSA Agent, reported that farmers are planting corn as fast as possible and are applying fertilizer to fields. Some growers have stopped planting corn in Crenshaw County due to no soil moisture reported Mr. Parish.

Winter grazing is short and some producers are still supplementing with hay reported Mr. Parish.

Regional Extension Agent for Commercial Horticulture in Northwest Alabama, Doug Chapman reported that fruit and vegetable crops look good with the first strawberries being harvested. Strawberry weevils were found in one field and a few plum curculios were captured, which are the first of the season in the area. Growers are busy setting vegetable transplants and spraying orchards. Bobby Boozer, Extension and Research Horticulturist for Fruit crops in the Chilton county Research and Extension Center reported that peach growers continue to evaluate varieties and crop loads following damaging freeze conditions earlier. Growers are hand thinning fruit for some varieties. Most advanced varieties have fruit that is 3/4 inch in diameter if damaging temperatures did not occur. Routine fungicide and insecticide applications are being made. In Central Alabama, the first egg lay of plum curculio occurred on April 4th and larva infested fruit are beginning to fall. With dryer conditions there has been a slight increase in sightings of stink bugs in orchards.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday April 10, 2006 To: Sunday April 16, 2006

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 25% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 41% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	89	39	68	9	0.00	-0.99	0	15.68	-1.55	91		131	57	68	47
Russellville	88	38	65	8	0.00	-1.14	0	16.11	-2.77	85		110	54	51	37
Belle Mina	90	32	62	3	0.00	-1.13	0	13.40	-5.40	71	64	86	19	32	15
Huntsville Ag	88	42	67	8	0.00	-1.13	0	12.92	-6.48	67		119	46	55	34
Hamilton	88	33	62	5	0.00	-1.26	0	17.53	-2.28	88		93	34	33	19
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	87	42	66	5	0.00	-1.25	0	17.05	-2.40	88		110	29	43	21
Cullman Ag	84	36	63	4	0.00	-1.26	0	18.12	-2.07	90	63	99	30	40	23
Sand Mountain	84	37	64	6	0.00	-1.20	0	12.81	-6.02	68	61	105	46	44	30
Gadsden AP	88	36	63	4	0.00	-1.32	0	12.85	-7.13	64		94	25	35	19
Bridgeport	86	36	64	7	0.00	-1.19	0	14.33	-5.79	71		99	41	43	30
Guntersville	87	42	64	4	0.00	-1.19	0	13.78	-4.53	75		105	29	43	22
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	85	45	67	6	0.00	-1.26	0	13.29	-7.05	65	66	124	43	55	29
Talladega	86	37	63	2	0.00	-1.16	0	16.70	-3.64	82		103	22	42	20
Birmingham AP	86	46	68	7	0.00	-1.14	0	20.02	1.29	107		125	46	57	35
Alabaster	84	47	66	6	0.00	-1.29	0	17.04	-4.01	81		116	37	47	26
Pinson	89	38	66	8	0.00	-1.27	0	17.29	-2.60	87		122	55	53	38
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	85	40	63	3	0.00	-1.28	0	17.19	-3.64	83		95	18	30	9
Alexander_City	87	36	64	3	0.00	-1.17	0	15.55	-4.94	76		105	25	41	19
Tuscaloosa AP	87	42	66	4	0.00	-1.29	0	16.31	-3.38	83		114	24	46	16
Jasper	86	38	63	4	0.00	-1.20	0	19.88	-0.32	98		100	33	40	23
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	88	46	67	5	0.00	-1.02	0	10.02	-8.98	53		128	37	58	29
Marion Junction	87	43	66	4	0.00	-1.23	0	12.45	-7.16	63	70	116	29	49	22
Montgomery AP	86	45	66	3	0.00	-1.06	0	13.68	-5.30	72		117	18	48	14
Livingston	87	40	65	3	0.00	-1.31	0	16.37	-3.64	82		110	20	44	16
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	84	47	67	0	0.00	-1.02	0	9.86	-10.35	49		124	3	54	2
Brewton AG	87	42	65	0	0.00	-0.96	0	10.41	-10.33	50	75	110	6	40	1
Thomasville	86	45	67	4	0.00	-1.05	0	13.73	-6.47	68		124	25	56	20
Mobile Bates	85	50	68	1	0.00	-0.99	0	7.72	-11.32	41		125	4	55	2
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	87	44	65	3	0.00	-0.94	0	13.18	-4.32	75		113	21	45	15
Troy_Municipal	87	44	67	4	0.00	-0.96	0	11.63	-6.80	63		118	23	49	17
Highland Home	85	39	62	-3	0.00	-1.03	0	12.89	-7.22	64		92	-3	29	-3
Geneva_Ag	88	43	65	-2	0.00	-0.86	0	12.17	-6.03	67	75	113	3	43	-1
Headland	87	48	68	3	0.00	-0.95	0	9.02	-10.18	47	81	134	26	64	22
Dothan	88	50	69	4	0.00	-0.99	0	10.55	-8.80	55		131	22	61	18

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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