



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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## Wheat and Corn Crops Look Good

Data tables reflect the week ending: **April 27, 2008.**

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	87	72	87	81
Corn Emerged	64	41	67	50
Cotton Planted	17	3	11	31
Peanuts Planted	4	n/a	7	6
Soybeans Planted	12	5	12	10
Percent of Feed from Pastures	83	79	n/a	n/a

na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	0	2	9	87	2
Winter Wheat	0	0	15	60	25
Livestock	0	8	30	59	3
Pasture & Range	2	8	26	54	10

Crop	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Hay & Roughage Supplies	54	42	4

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	5.4	12	16	72	0
District 20	5.5	0	9	91	0
District 30	7.0	0	10	90	0
District 40	6.0	0	12	87	1
District 50	6.3	0	40	54	6
District 60	6.7	3	18	74	5
State: Current Week	6.0	4	17	77	2
State: Previous Week	5.7	2	10	82	6

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** Warm, windy conditions during the past week had soil moisture levels on the decline, and left some producers uncertain about plans for planting this year's crops. Drought-free conditions were reported in 12 percent of the state, a drop of nearly 8 percent from a week ago, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released for April 22, 2008. Temperatures across the state were as many as 7 degrees above normal for this time of year. Daytime highs ranged from 80 degrees in Sand Mountain to 90 degrees in Geneva. Overnight lows varied from 40 degrees in Hamilton to 56 degrees in Dothan. Rainfall totals varied across much of the state. Areas in north-central Alabama received over an inch of moisture, while many south-central and southern regions remained dry. Year-to-date precipitation totals ranged from 3.02 inches above normal in Mobile to 9.56 inches below normal in Gadsden.

**Small Grains:** The winter wheat crop remained in good to excellent condition during the past week. Alex Brand, County Executive Director in the Wilcox County FSA office, stated that wheat in the area looked good, but only time will tell the story of this year's production. Disease pressure in the wheat crop was light to moderate. Doyle Barnes, County Executive Director in the Covington County FSA office, mentioned that many fields were showing signs of crop maturity as the plants began to dry down.

**Corn/Cotton/Soybeans:** Warm, sunny conditions boosted crop emergence in corn fields across the state, and had most of the crop in good to excellent condition. Producers spent time making fertilizer and herbicide applications to their fields. Cotton planting progressed 14 percent during the past week. However, growers in some areas of the state are hesitant to plant any seeds because of certain weather conditions. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent located in Autauga County, reported that rainfall over the weekend was light, and a lack of good soil moisture may limit planting in the upcoming weeks. Olin F. Farris, County Extension Coordinator in Escambia County, added that soil moisture in some areas was short, and producers decided to wait for rain to soak the beds before they planted. Other growers had enough moisture, and were busy knocking beds and seeding cotton.

**Fruit/Vegetables:** Overall, Alabama's peach crop was growing well with good soil moisture, and warm days. Bruce West, County Executive Director in the Mobile County FSA office, mentioned that producers saw some slight frost damage in their peach orchards from the cool temperatures a week ago. Bobby Boozer, Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research and Extension Center, indicated that plum curculio pressure in some orchards prompted producers to apply insecticides using calendar-based control programs. Growers that utilize targeted spray programs were also advised to spray during the past week. Feeding scars were found in some commercial orchards, but no larvae were seen. Fruit thinning moved along. Growers with early varieties were wrapping up the process, while producers with mid and late season varieties were thinning fruit at a full swing pace. Strawberry harvest was well underway in the northern and central areas of the state. Fruit quality was good. Insect pressure from two-spotted spider mites was light and limited to certain locations in the state.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** The majority of Alabama's pastures were in good to excellent condition. The first cutting of hay was seen in a few counties during the past week. Mr. Farris noted that producers in Escambia County harvested some oat and ryegrass hay under ideal weather conditions. Mr. Barnes stated that producers in the Covington County area were beginning to harvest their first cutting of hay, which was mostly a cleanup of winter ryegrass and other annuals. Most livestock remained in good condition. Pasture grazing accounted for most of the feedstuff that maintained their condition, as hay and roughage supplies from last year dwindled.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, April 21, 2008 To Sunday, April 27, 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	85	45	67	4	0.02	-0.99	2	12.79	-6.15	68	68	123	29	53	20	
Russellville	86	43	67	7	0.09	-1.07	1	15.64	-5.20	75		122	49	53	32	
Belle Mina	85	44	67	5	0.10	-0.95	1	15.18	-5.42	74		122	35	53	24	
Huntsville Ag	86	48	69	7	0.03	-1.06	1	14.85	-6.42	70		135	43	65	33	
Hamilton	89	40	66	6	0.36	-0.90	2	18.31	-3.66	83		120	42	50	28	
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 5% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.																
Anniston AP	83	46	69	5	0.42	-0.71	1	18.42	-3.01	86	67	136	35	66	31	
Cullman Ag	84	44	66	4	0.47	-0.72	1	19.85	-2.62	88		120	32	52	24	
Sand Mountain	80	46	66	6	0.20	-0.92	1	17.41	-4.00	81		117	39	49	27	
Gadsden_AP	84	45	67	5	0.34	-0.89	1	12.55	-9.56	57		120	30	51	23	
Bridgeport	84	44	65	5	0.36	-0.78	1	17.26	-5.03	77		115	40	47	26	
Guntersville	83	49	67	4	0.29	-0.83	2	16.02	-4.66	77	128	33	58	25		
District 30 North Central Alabama - 9% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.																
Thorsby	84	54	70	6	0.47	-0.62	1	16.25	-6.02	73	75	152	50	82	44	
Talladega	84	43	67	4	1.57	0.52	1	18.62	-3.79	83		127	27	57	23	
Birmingham_AP	84	50	71	7	0.42	-0.70	1	18.25	-2.40	88		145	46	75	39	
Alabaster	84	51	70	7	1.70	0.55	1	21.47	-1.60	93		142	45	72	39	
Pinson	86	45	69	7	0.33	-0.86	1	17.35	-4.62	79		134	49	64	38	
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	81	42	65	2	0.59	-0.50	1	19.40	-3.36	85		112	17	42	10	
Alexander_City	84	47	68	4	0.49	-0.56	2	20.40	-1.94	91		130	31	60	26	
Tuscaloosa_AP	87	50	70	5	0.16	-1.01	1	16.41	-5.33	75		143	34	73	29	
Jasper	85	44	66	4	1.10	-0.09	1	18.84	-3.39	85		122	36	52	25	
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	83	48	69	4	0.01	-0.90	1	14.25	-6.34	69	75	136	25	66	22	
Marion Junction	85	52	70	5	0.00	-1.07	0	16.08	-5.42	75		147	40	77	37	
Montgomery_AP	86	51	71	4	0.00	-0.96	0	15.21	-5.44	74		146	28	76	27	
Livingston	86	49	69	4	0.33	-0.85	4	17.90	-4.19	81		144	35	74	32	
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	86	53	72	3	0.00	-1.02	0	23.51	1.58	107	77	159	21	89	21	
Brewton_AG	88	51	70	4	0.00	-0.91	0	22.55	0.25	101		146	24	76	23	
Thomasville	85	50	70	4	0.06	-0.92	1	18.48	-3.63	84		147	30	77	28	
Mobile_Bates	88	54	72	2	0.06	-0.99	1	23.81	3.02	115		154	14	84	14	
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	49	69	4	0.15	-0.69	2	20.50	0.95	105	76	141	30	71	26	
Troy_Municipal	84	47	68	3	0.00	-0.84	0	19.11	-0.81	96		128	13	58	11	
Highland Home	82	46	66	0	0.00	-0.92	0	21.34	-0.39	98		115	0	45	-1	
Geneva_Ag	90	49	69	2	0.00	-0.77	0	21.18	1.64	108		139	10	69	10	
Headland	85	54	71	4	0.01	-0.90	1	17.56	-3.20	85		78	150	23	80	22
Dothan	85	56	72	5	0.02	-0.82	1	15.52	-5.31	75		157	30	87	29	

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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