



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 5

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Lack of Soil Moisture Hampers Planting Progress

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Crop	This Week	Last Week	5-Yr Avg.	
			2006	
			Percent	
Corn Planted	88	83	94	82
Corn Emerged	69	61	66	50
Cotton Planted	13	7	42	42
Soybeans Planted	13	9	24	10
Peanuts Planted	8	3	6	8

na = not available

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, April 27, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Corn	17	16	36	29	2
Winter Wheat	33	9	18	37	3
Livestock	5	7	47	38	3
Pasture & Range	5	20	52	20	3

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
District 10	4.7	29	37	34	0
District 20	5.1	15	56	29	0
District 30	5.9	3	46	50	1
District 40	6.6	6	51	43	0
District 50	6.3	10	28	47	15
District 60	6.3	17	15	68	0
State: Previous Week	6.1	15	37	45	3
State: Current Week	5.8	16	38	45	1

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Even though all weather stations reported receiving rainfall during the past week, areas of severe and extreme drought conditions continue to spread. The lack of soil moisture is a grave concern for peanut and cotton farmers who have yet to plant their crops. The year-to-date precipitation totals accumulated at Alabama weather stations continue to slide further behind normal, with Alabaster pushing below a 14 inch deficit. Temperatures for the week were a few degrees above normal for most areas of the state. Talladega, Livingston and Brewton all recorded daytime highs of 85 degrees, while Belle Mina fell to an overnight low of 40 degrees. Rainfall totals ranged from just a trace at 0.01 inches in Marion Junction to 2.30 inches in Bay Minnette.

Wheat/Corn: The 2007 wheat crop is very sporadic, as some wheat stands remain in good or excellent condition while others affected by the freeze are a complete loss. Barley yellow dwarf virus has shown some significance in some wheat fields. Fungal diseases are virtually absent due the dry weather. Most of the state's corn crop is reported to be in fair to good condition. Many producers are busy spraying fertilizer and herbicide applications to their fields.

Cotton/Peanuts/Soybeans: Cotton and peanut planting is slowly moving along. With a lack of soil moisture, farmers in most areas of the state are reluctant to put seeds in the ground. Leonard Kuykendall, Autauga County Extension Agent noted that cotton planting started and has since stopped as producers in the county await more rainfall. James D. Jones, Jr., Henry County Extension Agent stated that cotton planting began this past week, and is moving along at a fast pace. Some early soybeans have been planted, but like cotton and peanuts producers are waiting for more rain. Dennis Delaney, Extension Soybean Specialist added that Asian soybean rust has no longer been found on Kudzu due to earlier freezes and dry weather, but scouting in on going.

Fruits/Vegetables: James D. Miles, Regional Extension Agent and Horticulture Specialist indicated that the peach crop in south Alabama is in the pit-hardening stage, and producers are expecting a full crop. Watermelons are in great shape, and should be ready for harvest early this crop season. Cantaloupes have shown some injury, and may be stunted and delayed. Satsumas are at or past the 2/3 petal stage of blooming. Crop set is still unknown, but the number of blooms seen in most groves was average to above average. The pecan crop in southern areas looks good, as most trees are in the late pollination stage. Monte Nesbitt, Research Horticulturist mentioned that scab pressure has been light, but growers are encouraged to assess their need for fungicide applications. Pecan nut casebearer moths have been captured in traps, indicating the need for insecticide sprays. Strong winds have sand blasted some young vegetable seedlings, resulting in some bean and pea crops that will have to be replanted.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: The majority of Alabama pasture conditions still range from poor to good. The lack of rainfall combined with cool overnight temperatures has pasture and hayland off to a slow start this spring. Mr. Jones added that pastures in Henry County need rain and warmer nights to help stimulate growth for grazing purposes. Some producers have started cutting hay, but yields are below average to average. Ryegrass hay yields are turning out well. Darrell Rankins, Extension Cattle Specialist at Auburn University reported that the majority of the 2006 hay supply has been exhausted, and some ranchers are evaluating the potential of using the freeze damaged wheat as forage. Others may harvest the wheat as hay if it will dry properly.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday, April 23, 2007 To Sunday, April 29, 2007

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 32% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 39% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	83	50	68	5	0.61	-0.41	2	8.72	-10.37	46	67	127	32	57	23
Russellville	83	47	66	6	0.93	-0.24	3	7.90	-13.11	38		123	49	53	32
Belle Mina	81	40	65	3	1.00	-0.05	4	12.06	-8.69	58		119	31	49	19
Huntsville Ag	81	49	67	5	0.96	-0.14	3	10.69	-10.74	50		123	29	55	22
Hamilton	84	42	67	6	1.07	-0.20	3	11.14	-11.02	50		121	41	51	28
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 21% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 35% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	84	45	66	2	0.16	-0.96	1	9.54	-12.05	44	65	116	14	46	9
Cullman Ag	80	45	65	2	0.95	-0.24	2	11.58	-11.06	51		109	19	41	12
Sand Mountain	79	47	65	4	1.95	0.83	3	12.61	-8.96	58		108	28	40	17
Gadsden_AP	82	45	66	3	1.22	0.00	3	8.52	-13.76	38		112	20	43	14
Bridgeport	81	45	65	4	1.01	-0.14	3	11.66	-10.80	52		106	29	39	18
Guntersville	80	46	65	2	1.40	0.28	3	9.95	-10.89	48		122	25	52	17
District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 8% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	83	50	69	4	0.03	-1.05	1	8.84	-13.58	39	69	134	30	64	25
Talladega	85	43	64	-1	0.02	-1.03	1	10.30	-12.27	46		108	7	38	2
Birmingham_AP	83	51	69	5	1.98	0.86	2	9.93	-10.88	48		134	33	64	27
Alabaster	82	50	68	4	0.22	-0.92	2	9.19	-14.04	40		127	28	57	23
Pinson	84	46	66	5	1.22	0.03	3	9.77	-12.37	44		125	38	55	28
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	81	43	63	-1	0.07	-1.01	2	14.25	-8.66	62		104	8	34	1
Alexander_City	81	45	65	0	0.22	-0.83	1	12.38	-10.11	55		106	5	36	0
Tuscaloosa_AP	83	49	68	3	1.26	0.10	2	8.83	-13.07	40		129	18	59	14
Jasper	83	44	66	5	1.52	0.33	2	10.39	-12.02	46		125	38	55	27
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	82	48	67	1	0.32	-0.59	2	12.55	-8.17	61	75	126	13	56	11
Marion Junction	83	50	68	3	0.01	-1.04	1	8.68	-12.96	40		132	24	62	21
Montgomery_AP	84	51	69	2	0.04	-0.91	1	13.17	-7.61	63		131	11	61	10
Livingston	85	42	67	2	2.10	0.93	1	9.45	-12.80	42		127	16	57	13
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	82	55	69	-2	2.30	1.27	1	18.01	-4.07	82	74	142	2	72	2
Brewton_AG	85	51	68	1	0.70	-0.22	1	23.51	1.07	105		130	7	60	6
Thomasville	82	53	68	2	0.28	-0.70	2	14.94	-7.31	67		135	16	65	14
Mobile_Bates	83	51	70	0	0.58	-0.49	1	13.15	-7.80	63		142	0	72	0
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	82	49	67	2	0.28	-0.56	2	14.49	-5.18	74	75	127	14	57	11
Troy_Municipal	82	47	68	2	0.23	-0.61	2	13.19	-6.85	66		128	12	58	10
Highland Home	80	41	63	-4	0.52	-0.40	1	13.50	-8.37	62		96	-20	26	-22
Geneva_Ag	83	47	67	-2	0.50	-0.27	2	18.04	-1.61	92		123	-7	53	-7
Headland	83	55	70	2	0.02	-0.89	1	14.71	-6.18	70		146	17	76	17
Dothan	84	55	71	3	0.29	-0.55	1	13.98	-6.98	67		147	18	77	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) , 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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