



CROP WEATHER

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 5

Darien Lee, Ag. Statistician

Rains Improved Moisture Condition in Many Areas

CROP PROGRESS	Sunday, April 30, 2006			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	95	85	78	82
Corn Emerged	68	52	50	50
Cotton Planted	44	30	39	45
Soybeans Planted	25	18	7	7
Peanuts Planted	7	2	7	9

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION	Friday, April 28, 2006				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	8	17	74	0
Pasture	6	25	33	32	4
Livestock	0	1	25	61	13

	Days Suitable	Top Soil Moisture			
		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	4.0	1	14	81	4
District 20	4.0	0	0	58	42
District 30	5.4	0	14	85	1
District 40	6.7	40	31	29	0
District 50	5.5	16	32	47	5
District 60	6.3	20	57	23	0
State: Current Week	5.6	16	28	51	5
State: Previous Week	6.1	21	36	42	1

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

Alabama received rain in many areas of the state last week. Much of the precipitation occurred in the Northwest Tennessee Valley and Southwest Coastal Plain areas. Many counties in Central Alabama remains very dry. **Charles Burmester**, Agronomist in North Alabama, said that rainfall and cooler temperatures limited field work across northern Alabama to only two to three days last week. Farmers were side dressing corn and planting soybean and cotton during the week. Houston County FSA Agent, **Jerry Armstrong** commented that the county received rain, which caused growers to have a progressive week of field work. Macon County Extension Agent, **John**

S. Pulliam, said row crops are being planted and with the rainfall from the weekend, crops will start to sprout. **James D. Miles**, Commercial Horticulture Regional Extension Agent, reported that row crops are starting to be planted at a fast pace with the recent rains. The highest rainfall received at Bay Minette was 2.22 inches and at Muscle Shoals was 1.55 inches. The average temperatures recorded for last week were in the mid 80's and low around mid to low 40's.

Mr. Burmester also stated that about 70% of the cotton has been planted and 50% has emerged. Most cotton planted emerged in 5 to 7 days and appears to be off to a good start. Autauga County Extension Agent, **Leonard Kuykendall** reported that most of Elmore and Autauga Counties are dry, and very little moisture fell with the front this past Wednesday. Most cotton farmers are piddling with their plantings because they are waiting on moisture to finish planting the crop.

Etowah County Extension Agent, **T.H. Gregg**, commented that some hay is almost ready for first cutting. **Mr. Miles** stated that, pastures are in pretty bad shape because of the drought, some will recover with minimum renovation. **Darrell Rankins Jr.**, Extension Animal Scientist, stated that another on-going concern continues to be the high fertilizer costs as we enter the hay-making season. Many cattlemen are turning to alternative nitrogen sources such as chicken litter for fertilizing. In the southern portions of the state, most winter annual pastures have about played out and the lack of rainfall is limiting growth of bahia and bermudagrass pastures. There have been some recent reports of plant toxicity problems as many of the warm-season weeds begin to green-up.

Mr. Rankins stated that moisture conditions are the over-riding factor in most beef cattle operations in Alabama. Calf prices have declined somewhat but overall are remaining strong compared with historical prices. Mr. Miles stated that with recent rains, fruit growers have reduced scheduled irrigations. The vegetable growers are also planting crops that were planed for bare dirt. Plasticulture crops have been in and doing well. Also, blueberry growers have seen a high population of gall midge and plum curculios are starting to move in peach orchards in Southwest Alabama.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday April 24, 2006 To: Sunday April 30, 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	87	45	67	4	1.55	0.52	3	18.34	-0.90	95	69	121	24	55	19	
Russellville	87	43	64	4	0.96	-0.22	2	18.12	-3.06	86		112	36	49	27	
Belle Mina	87	36	62	-2	0.82	-0.23	3	15.33	-5.57	73		93	3	34	3	
Huntsville Ag	85	47	67	4	0.67	-0.44	2	14.92	-6.67	69		122	27	54	20	
Hamilton	88	37	63	2	0.22	-1.06	2	18.07	-4.28	81		104	23	41	17	
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.																
Anniston AP	85	43	67	3	0.51	-0.60	1	19.01	-2.73	87	71	124	20	56	18	
Cullman Ag	84	41	64	1	0.27	-0.92	3	19.80	-2.80	88		105	13	40	10	
Sand Mountain	82	43	64	3	0.26	-0.86	2	16.77	-4.35	79		104	23	41	17	
Gadsden AP	84	43	66	3	0.71	-0.50	1	15.79	-6.66	70		114	20	47	17	
Bridgeport	83	41	64	3	0.81	-0.35	2	18.00	-4.41	80		105	26	41	19	
Guntersville	83	45	65	0	0.10	-1.03	1	16.09	-4.50	78	121	22	53	16		
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.																
Thorsby	86	47	68	4	0.61	-0.46	2	15.43	-7.14	68	71	134	28	64	24	
Talladega	85	40	65	2	0.51	-0.54	2	18.97	-3.52	84		118	16	52	15	
Birmingham AP	85	46	68	4	0.55	-0.57	1	26.08	5.11	124		130	28	61	23	
Alabaster	83	46	68	4	0.02	-1.10	1	19.84	-3.54	85		126	25	57	21	
Pinson	88	40	67	5	0.24	-0.95	1	20.07	-2.24	90		144	56	74	45	
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	84	42	66	2	0.08	-0.98	1	17.83	-5.22	77		121	23	51	17	
Alexander_City	87	43	66	3	0.20	-0.85	2	16.30	-6.34	72		126	24	57	20	
Tuscaloosa AP	86	44	68	2	0.07	-1.08	2	18.26	-3.80	83		128	15	58	12	
Jasper	86	42	65	3	0.00	-1.19	0	23.06	0.48	102		116	28	49	21	
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	87	43	69	3	0.06	-0.85	1	11.01	-9.84	53	74	141	26	71	25	
Marion Junction	87	44	69	4	0.10	-0.93	2	12.76	-9.02	59		142	33	72	29	
Montgomery AP	88	44	69	2	1.11	0.17	2	15.09	-5.82	72		135	13	65	13	
Livingston	88	42	67	1	0.09	-1.07	3	17.10	-5.31	76		129	16	60	15	
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.																
Bay Minette	86	53	70	1	2.22	1.18	3	12.51	-9.72	56	74	153	11	83	11	
Brewton AG	87	46	68	1	0.90	-0.03	2	13.04	-9.54	58		136	11	66	10	
Thomasville	86	48	69	2	0.64	-0.35	3	14.49	-7.68	65		146	25	76	24	
Mobile Bates	86	53	71	2	1.24	0.16	3	9.59	-11.52	45		149	6	79	6	
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	89	47	70	4	0.78	-0.06	1	15.98	-3.23	83	75	145	30	75	28	
Troy_Municipal	86	44	69	2	0.16	-0.68	1	13.65	-6.51	68		132	15	62	12	
Highland Home	85	40	64	-3	0.48	-0.45	1	13.80	-8.21	63		114	-3	47	-3	
Geneva_Ag	88	46	69	0	0.42	-0.35	2	14.29	-5.47	72		138	7	68	7	
Headland	86	52	70	3	0.19	-0.72	2	10.49	-10.53	50		84	148	18	78	18
Dothan	87	51	71	3	0.29	-0.55	2	12.60	-8.48	60		150	20	80	20	

*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.*

PERIODICALS
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