



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 12

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Lack of Moisture Worsens Crop Conditions

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, June 18, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	5-Yr Avg.	
			2005	Percent
Corn Silked	54	31	22	33
Cotton Squaring	24	11	20	29
Soybeans Planted	91	84	76	69
Soybeans Emerged	77	67	66	57
Peanuts Pegged	4	0	3	4

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, June 16, 2006

Crop	Very Poor to Exc.				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	24	23	33	19	1
Cotton	3	22	42	33	0
Soybeans	2	19	53	25	1
Peanuts	0	32	43	25	0
Pasture	17	29	31	23	0
Livestock	2	11	36	47	4

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	7.0	39	41	20	0
District 20	6.9	55	37	8	0
District 30	6.8	29	38	33	0
District 40	6.8	25	56	19	0
District 50	6.8	41	57	2	0
District 60	6.6	97	3	0	0
State: Current Week	6.8	47	38	15	0
State: Previous Week	6.6	38	40	22	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: The condition of Alabama crops continued to decline after a second week of hit and miss rainstorms. Rapidly declining soil moisture levels have caused moderate to extreme drought conditions throughout most of the southern half of the state. Precipitation totals in areas of Mobile County are nearly 16 inches behind the normal yearly average. High to very high fire danger has been noted across areas of southwestern Alabama. Numerous extension agents indicated a desperate need for substantial rainfall to help turn the crop outlook in their county around. Temperatures during the past week were approaching the century mark, with daytime highs ranging from the low to upper 90's and overnight lows varying from the upper 50's into upper 60's.

Cotton: As the hot, dry weather conditions of the past week prevailed, Alabama cotton fields continued to suffer. Thomas Atkinson in the Madison County FSA office reported that cotton crop growth in the county is approximately one month behind normal. Franklin County Extension Agent, Tim Reed, stated that about half of the county's cotton crop is stunted due to dry weather. Producers feel a timely, good soaking rain could bring the crop back.

Corn/Soybeans: The outlook for the state's corn has become grave. Donald Mann in the Jackson County FSA office indicated that early planted corn in the county is expected to yield at about half of normal. If no rainfall is received soon, some fields will be totally lost. Mr. Atkinson noted that all Madison County fields had tasseled and non-irrigated fields are hurting badly. Farmers in Franklin County are worried that because of the dry conditions, more corn has been forward priced than will be produced. Cherokee County Extension Agent, David Derrick, estimated that corn yields on Sand Mountain have already been impacted at one third to one half of normal. Leonard Kuykenall, Autauga County Extension Agent stated that dryland corn in the county will be a half crop at best. Dennis Delaney, Extension Specialist at Auburn reported that many early maturity soybeans have started blooming and are in bloom to pod fill stages with shorter plants than expected. Significant rain is needed to retain and fill out pods in these fields, with both early and late planted soybeans needing moisture to increase plant size. Regional Extension Agents have been regularly checking sentinel plots for Asian Soybean Rust, but dry weather has limited its spread from Kudzu in south Alabama.

Peaches/Peanuts/Other: Alabama's peach crop is smaller than normal due to a lack of water at maturity, along with marginal killing temperatures in late March. Research Horticulturist, Bobby Boozer, indicated that these temperatures may have damaged developing embryos resulting in inadequate cell division. Dry conditions have increased the occurrence of spider mites and stink bugs, but plum curculio numbers seem to be weakening since the first generation emergence. Kris Balkcom reported that earlier planted peanuts have adequate stands but suffered from slow emergence, but later planted fields are seeing poor stands due to a lack of soil moisture at planting. Small grain harvest throughout the state is nearly complete. Madison County producers received good to exceptional winter wheat yields.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Pastures and hay fields are failing fast because of the lack of rain. Darrell Rankins, a Beef Cattle Nutritionist at Auburn reported that ranchers are looking for alternative feed sources for cattle herds and hay supplies become short and production is curtailed. Peanut hulls are a good roughage source. Pelleted or ground peanut hulls should be avoided, as these will cause compaction in the stomach. Producers need to be aware of excessive nitrates when using corn or sorghum fields as emergency grazing sources. Drought stressed corn is especially conducive to nitrate poisoning. With cattle prices remaining strong, producers are also weaning calves early and moving them to auctions.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday June 12, 2006 To: Sunday June 18, 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	96	62	78	2	0.04	-0.87	2	26.31	-0.49	98		197	12	127	12
Russellville	97	58	77	4	0.00	-0.84	0	22.27	-6.79	77		197	36	127	36
Belle Mina	96	61	77	3	0.44	-0.47	1	20.68	-7.27	74	84	195	18	125	19
Huntsville Ag	95	63	79	4	0.13	-0.78	2	20.03	-9.09	69		203	22	133	22
Hamilton	98	56	76	3	0.07	-0.84	1	23.09	-7.44	76		193	25	123	25
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	98	60	78	2	0.00	-0.84	0	23.11	-5.02	82		200	13	130	13
Cullman Ag	94	57	76	2	0.00	-0.91	0	26.37	-3.82	87	77	194	23	124	23
Sand Mountain	93	57	76	3	0.00	-0.84	0	20.33	-7.73	72	79	186	22	116	22
Gadsden AP	97	59	77	2	0.00	-0.84	0	18.80	-10.50	64		190	11	120	11
Bridgeport	92	57	75	2	0.00	-0.91	0	23.98	-5.97	80		180	15	110	15
Guntersville	93	63	77	1	0.01	-0.69	1	20.68	-6.60	76		196	11	126	11
District 30 North Central Alabama -10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	96	65	81	5	0.06	-0.92	1	18.70	-10.18	65	84	218	33	148	33
Talladega	95	59	77	2	0.01	-1.00	1	23.68	-6.10	80		196	17	126	17
Birmingham AP	96	65	81	5	0.15	-0.66	1	29.77	1.79	106		219	34	149	34
Alabaster	95	66	80	5	0.22	-0.78	1	25.78	-4.36	86		214	30	144	30
Pinson	97	58	78	4	0.00	-0.91	0	24.33	-5.16	83		206	34	136	34
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	92	61	77	2	0.00	-0.94	0	23.63	-5.49	81		196	16	126	16
Alexander_City	95	63	79	3	0.10	-0.88	1	20.01	-9.39	68		205	23	135	22
Tuscaloosa AP	96	62	80	3	0.84	0.00	1	23.72	-4.71	83		215	19	145	18
Jasper	96	59	78	4	0.00	-0.91	0	28.87	-1.06	96		207	34	137	34
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	97	65	81	4	0.16	-1.02	1	15.09	-12.69	54		218	23	148	23
Marion Junction	97	66	81	4	0.43	-0.55	2	17.13	-10.93	61	84	221	29	151	29
Montgomery AP	98	66	81	3	0.06	-0.82	1	18.57	-8.46	69		220	19	150	19
Livingston	98	64	80	3	0.00	-0.85	0	22.61	-6.18	79		216	22	146	22
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 32% of Peanut Acreage, 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	95	69	82	3	0.30	-1.01	2	19.81	-11.15	64		228	21	158	21
Brewton AG	98	66	82	5	1.56	0.15	3	22.00	-9.11	71	85	233	37	163	37
Thomasville	94	67	80	3	0.42	-0.53	1	22.13	-7.15	76		215	18	145	17
Mobile Bates	96	69	82	2	0.03	-1.09	2	13.94	-15.86	47		226	13	156	13
District 60 Southeast Alabama - Wiregrass 23% of Corn Acreage, 27% of Cotton Acreage, 4% of Soybean Acreage, 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	96	65	80	3	0.49	-0.52	3	19.94	-5.76	78		221	27	151	27
Troy_Municipal	97	64	80	3	0.52	-0.47	1	20.04	-6.27	76		214	22	144	22
Highland Home	96	61	78	0	0.04	-1.01	1	21.44	-7.70	74		201	7	131	7
Geneva_Ag	98	64	81	3	1.15	-0.15	1	20.86	-5.90	78	90	217	16	147	16
Headland	99	67	81	3	0.11	-1.08	1	14.20	-14.27	50	93	225	23	155	23
Dothan	99	69	82	5	0.46	-0.69	1	16.36	-11.36	59		229	30	159	30

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. For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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