



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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ISSUE 15

Darien Lee, Ag. Statistician

More Rains Needed For Crops and Pastures

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, July 9, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	5-Yr Avg.	
			2005	Percent
Corn Silked	93	84	82	85
Cotton Squaring	61	54	64	80
Cotton Setting Bolls	18	4	12	21
Soybeans Emerged	97	93	94	91
Soybeans Blooming	39	17	25	14
Soybeans Setting Pods	13	0	10	3
Peanuts Pegged	13	12	18	39

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, July 7, 2006

Crop	Very Poor				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.	Percent
Corn	41	27	25	7	0
Cotton	18	34	33	15	0
Soybeans	23	40	30	7	0
Peanuts	13	25	40	22	0
Pasture	32	38	28	2	0
Livestock	5	18	45	29	3

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
District 10	6.1	43	33	24	0
District 20	6.3	44	46	10	0
District 30	6.9	49	47	5	0
District 40	6.7	64	23	13	0
District 50	6.1	24	52	23	1
District 60	7.0	63	32	5	0
State: Current Week	6.6	52	35	13	0
State: Previous Week	6.3	50	38	12	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: The need for rain is showing in Northwest Alabama. Lawrence County Extension Agent, Heath Porter, stated that if farmers do not get rain in the next few days, some more farmers will abandon their fields. Cindy Owens, Fayette County Agent, added that crop conditions continues to worsen due to lack of rainfall. Monte Nesbitt, Research Horticulturist, stated that the rainfall at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center in Baldwin County was 1.33 inches total in the month of June, 5.2 inches below normal. Light rains on July 4-6 brought 0.86" and only modest relief from this extended drought. Ron Weeks, Extension Entomologist, from the Wiregrass Counties, reported rain showers were extremely scattered last week. Small areas received up to 2 inches of rain, but that was the exception. Most areas received zero to a half inch which provided only a day or two of temporary relief.

Temperatures were well above average last week with the Tennessee Valley reaching 100 degrees. The high temperatures for the rest of the state were above 95 degrees. The overnight lows ranged from upper 50's to upper 60's

Cotton: Franklin County Agent, Tim Reed, reported rainfall amounts for the last 7 days have ranged from 0.8 to 2 inches. Cotton looks much better and has a shot for normal yields, as do soybeans. Thomas Atkinson, Madison County Agent, commented that cotton is still extremely small. The early cotton is approximately 20 - 24 inches tall and late cotton is approximately 12 - 18 inches tall. Early cotton will begin blooming out the top in the next week to 10 days without adequate rainfall. Heath Potter, Lawrence County Agent, reported conditions as poor and very dry. Some farmers are considering abandoning their fields.

Peanuts: Mr. Weeks also stated that peanuts continues to make some progress where there has been some rain, but most peanuts are now old enough that they should be blooming heavily and setting pods. However, most fields, not irrigated, are just maintaining vegetative growth. Insect populations, especially lesser cornstalk borers, have continued to build and in many fields have reached treatment thresholds. Leafhoppers and some foliage feeders are evident in some areas. Growers should take time to scout fields closely during this critical time in the production season to access crop potential and insect pest damage in order to make the decisions about treatments.

Corn/Soybeans: Washington County Agent, Arthur Threatt commented light rain was received last week to help crops. Moisture is still needed in most areas. Pasture and late corn are most in need. Mr. Reed also commented that rain will help late planted corn significantly.

Peaches/Vegetables: Research Horticulturist, Bobby Boozer, commented that rainfall during the week helped reduce moisture stress in many peach orchards. Varieties continue to ripen at an earlier pace. Marketable fruit have had excellent flavor and good color. Growers continue harvesting and maintaining pest control strategies. Some summer pruning is being conducted in orchards, removal of interior wood increasing sunlight and helping with flower bud formation. Disease pressures continue to be low at this time. Insects with moderate to high numbers have been stinkbugs and spider mites. Plum curculio activity has been low to moderate based on trap monitoring during the week.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Donald Mann, Jackson County Agent, stated that only a few isolated areas of the county received any significant rainfall this past week. Crops continue to deteriorate. Many livestock producers are feeding hay because the pastures have burned-up. Mr. Mann also mentioned that the creeks, ponds and wells going dry and its only early July.

Pecans: Monte Nesbitt, Research Horticulturist reported that pecans are entering the period of rapid nut sizing, and continued absence of precipitation will cause nut size to be reduced. The crop was reduced substantially in June, by drought stress occurring during the June drop phase. Pecan pest problems of focus continue to be scab disease, aphids, and mites. Citrus growers are encouraged to irrigate trees during this drought and to scout closely for citrus rust mite. Rust mites have been found in Baldwin County in damaging numbers requiring oil or miticide treatment as recently as June 26.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday July 3, 2006 To: Sunday July 9, 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	99	61	79	-1	2.16	1.11	3	28.48	-1.27	96		206	3	136	3
Russellville	100	62	79	3	1.30	0.28	3	24.20	-7.65	76		207	21	137	22
Belle Mina	101	60	80	2	0.44	-0.61	1	21.63	-9.26	70	85	213	17	143	18
Huntsville Ag	98	60	80	2	0.28	-0.84	2	20.94	-11.28	65		211	10	141	11
Hamilton	102	58	79	3	0.38	-0.69	2	24.22	-9.28	72		210	18	140	19
District 20 Northeast															
Anniston AP	98	65	80	2	0.19	-0.79	2	24.40	-6.54	79		214	11	144	11
Cullman Ag	96	58	78	1	0.38	-0.74	3	28.23	-5.07	85	78	203	14	133	14
Sand Mountain	93	60	78	3	0.13	-0.95	2	23.18	-7.82	75		200	18	130	18
Gadsden AP	97	61	79	2	0.74	-0.41	3	22.98	-9.37	71		207	7	137	7
Bridgeport	95	59	78	2	1.40	0.24	2	26.08	-6.99	79		201	15	131	16
Guntersville	96	62	79	1	1.21	0.13	3	23.27	-6.79	77		219	16	149	16
District 30 North Central															
Thorsby	97	67	81	4	0.70	-0.47	2	20.81	-11.39	65	86	228	32	158	32
Talladega	99	62	80	2	0.21	-0.91	1	25.03	-8.01	76		211	15	141	15
Birmingham AP	96	67	82	4	0.35	-0.81	1	34.11	3.09	110		227	24	157	24
Alabaster	99	68	81	3	0.94	-0.29	3	27.66	-5.94	82		221	18	151	18
Pinson	97	61	80	3	0.00	-1.14	0	25.80	-6.82	79		220	31	150	31
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	96	61	79	2	0.00	-1.35	0	23.94	-8.8	73		208	12	138	12
Alexander_City	97	63	80	2	0.00	-1.24	0	22.66	-10.15	69		214	14	144	14
Tuscaloosa AP	99	65	83	3	0.00	-1.21	0	23.86	-7.77	75		231	14	161	14
Jasper	99	61	79	2	0.10	-1.07	1	29.27	-3.84	88		211	18	141	18
District 40 South Central															
Union Springs	100	63	82	3	0.00	-1.33	0	16.20	-15.4	51		234	24	164	24
Marion Junction	100	68	83	4	0.88	-0.24	1	18.63	-12.67	60	86	234	27	164	27
Montgomery AP	97	68	82	2	0.02	-1.16	1	20.84	-9.39	69		229	12	159	12
Livingston	99	66	81	2	0.67	-0.63	2	24.32	-7.85	76		224	14	154	14
District 50 Southwest															
Bay Minette	96	68	82	2	1.42	-0.28	4	21.60	-14.02	61		227	10	157	10
Brewton AG	100	69	83	4	0.90	-0.71	3	23.63	-12.13	66	89	233	23	163	23
Thomasville	95	68	82	2	0.42	-0.92	2	23.04	-9.8	70		228	18	158	18
Mobile Bates	94	70	82	-1	0.10	-1.35	2	15.02	-18.71	45		225	1	155	1
District 60 Southeast															
Eufaula_Wildlife	98	64	82	3	0.18	-1.01	2	21.93	-7.17	75		231	21	161	21
Troy_Municipal	99	63	82	3	0.00	-1.32	0	20.98	-8.94	70		226	23	156	23
Highland Home	97	62	79	0	0.52	-0.60	1	23.07	-9.33	71		208	5	138	5
Geneva_Ag	99	64	82	3	0.22	-1.34	2	22.03	-9.19	71	93	233	23	163	23
Headland	97	68	83	3	1.05	-0.29	1	17.42	-14.94	54	95	233	23	163	23
Dothan	97	68	84	4	0.16	-1.24	1	19.94	-11.75	63		237	27	167	27

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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