



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



HERB VANDERBERRY, DIRECTOR
USDA/NASS ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

RON SPARKS, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AG. AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578

● 1 (800) 832-4181

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ISSUE 17

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Scattered Rains, Received, More Needed

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Percent	
			2005	5-Yr Avg.
Corn Silked	99	98	95	96
Corn Dough	74	65	53	58
Corn Dented	37	n/a	0	34
Cotton Squaring	81	74	88	94
Cotton Setting Bolls	56	47	44	58
Soybeans Blooming	73	62	57	42
Soybeans Setting Pods	39	31	35	20
Peanuts Pegged	41	29	34	66

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, July 21, 2006

Crop	Percent				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Corn	45	32	15	8	0
Cotton	24	37	26	13	0
Soybeans	31	40	22	7	0
Peanuts	11	33	37	19	0
Pasture	48	36	14	2	0
Livestock	3	26	45	23	3

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	7.0	75	18	7	0
District 20	6.7	56	43	1	0
District 30	6.6	46	53	1	0
District 40	6.8	63	26	11	0
District 50	6.4	28	44	28	2
District 60	6.7	55	33	12	0
State: Current Week	6.8	61	30	9	0
State: Previous Week	6.6	67	28	5	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Extreme drought conditions pushed upward into central Alabama and expanded eastward to cover the majority of the southern part of the state. Showers were scattered across the state, as a weak front hung over the south. However, the precipitation accumulations did little to revive the depleted subsoil and topsoil moisture levels. Warren Griffith, Extension Agent in Fayette County noted that some areas received as much as 1.5 inches of rain while others in the county saw very little, if any. Jerry Armstrong in the Houston County FSA office mentioned that topsoil conditions in the county have improved, but are still far from normal. Temperatures recorded in Alabama over the past week were well

above average for the sixth consecutive week. Overnight lows varied from the mid 60's to the low 70's. Daytime high recordings ranged from the upper 90's to 106 degrees in Hamilton.

Cotton: Alabama's cotton condition continues to decline. With District 10 representing 32% of the state's crop and topsoil moisture in the northern part of the state growing shorter each week, the outlook for cotton growers is bleak. Hot, dry weather conditions have produced shorter than normal stands with many blooming out of the top. Leonard Kuykendall, Autauga County Extension Agent reported that herbicide and insecticide applications are still being sprayed.

Peanuts/Corn/Soybeans: Peanut stands are still holding on, as producers bide their time waiting for much needed moisture. Disease pressures have been light, but with the current increase in humidity and scattered rain showers time will tell if fungal problems arise. Drought conditions continue to reduce yields in what is left of the state's corn crop. John S. Pulliam, Extension Agent in Macon County noted that the county's corn crop appears to be lost. Over the past week, 71% of the soybeans in the state fell into very poor to poor condition.

Peaches: Many orchards received some much needed rainfall over the past week. Growers with irrigation capabilities continue to supplement rainfall where needed. Extension Horticulturist, Bobby Boozer, stated that the harvest of late season varieties such as Ruston Red, Cresthaven, and Sunprince continues. Some producers are pruning in hopes of reducing the water demands on their trees, and to open up the canopy for fruit bud development. Disease pressures continue to be light because of the dry weather conditions. Spider mite infestations continue as routine spray programs for pest management are utilized.

Catfish: Bill Hemstreet, Fish Specialist at the Agriculture Experiment Station indicated that the current heat wave seen throughout Alabama has created water quality problems for catfish producers. The oxygen level in ponds has been low, and growers are running aeration equipment. Farm input costs for chemicals and fuel have increased, which has led to many smaller operations going out of business. High demand, coupled with lower product availability has generated competitive prices for producers over the past year.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Conservation Reserve Program land is now available in all Alabama counties for producers to use for haying or grazing purposes. Danny Crawford, Director of the state Farm Service Agency noted that the hay shortage due to persistent drought conditions has reached a critical stage for livestock producers. Auction barns are busy as ranchers are selling calves four to eight weeks early and about 100 pounds lighter than normal. Jeff Knots in the Pike County FSA office reported that cattle sales in the county are up 42% from last year.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday July 17, 2006 To: Sunday July 23, 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	101	67	85	6	0.30	-0.75	2	28.78	-3.13	90		245	35	175	35
Russellville	101	66	83	7	1.26	0.22	1	25.46	-8.48	75		234	45	164	45
Belle Mina	99	65	84	6	0.80	-0.25	2	22.93	-10.11	69	90	237	40	167	40
Huntsville Ag	102	68	85	7	0.94	-0.18	2	22.20	-12.29	64		247	44	177	44
Hamilton	106	63	84	6	0.42	-0.69	3	24.64	-11.09	69		240	44	170	44
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	100	71	85	6	0.52	-0.52	4	25.17	-7.85	76		245	35	175	35
Cullman Ag	99	66	82	5	0.41	-0.70	3	29.41	-6.18	83	81	228	32	158	32
Sand Mountain	97	68	82	6	0.12	-0.96	2	24.15	-9.05	73		227	43	157	43
Gadsden_AP	99	70	84	5	0.29	-0.90	2	23.37	-11.36	67		240	37	170	37
Bridgeport	97	66	81	5	1.30	0.10	1	28.20	-7.29	79		223	34	153	34
Guntersville	99	68	84	5	1.07	-0.06	3	24.63	-7.73	76		241	38	171	38
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	98	71	84	6	1.49	0.32	2	22.52	-12.04	65	86	243	40	173	40
Talladega	99	70	84	6	0.46	-0.66	5	25.69	-9.62	73		238	35	168	35
Birmingham_AP	99	71	85	6	3.64	2.40	4	37.98	4.46	113		250	40	180	40
Alabaster	97	71	84	5	1.15	-0.07	4	29.53	-6.55	82		237	32	167	33
Pinson	100	69	84	7	0.56	-0.59	2	26.99	-7.97	77		239	43	169	43
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	98	68	83	5	2.77	1.39	3	26.71	-8.81	75		235	32	165	32
Alexander_City	99	70	85	6	0.24	-1.02	3	23.37	-11.97	66		245	42	175	42
Tuscaloosa_AP	100	71	86	6	0.46	-0.80	1	25.41	-8.74	74		252	35	182	35
Jasper	99	68	83	6	1.40	0.20	2	31.34	-4.22	88		235	39	165	39
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan															
Union Springs	101	68	85	5	1.61	0.36	3	18.18	-15.97	53		251	41	181	41
Marion Junction	101	69	86	6	0.54	-0.58	4	19.17	-14.38	57	88	253	43	183	43
Montgomery_AP	101	69	86	5	0.21	-0.99	3	21.48	-11.20	66		252	29	182	29
Livingston	100	69	85	4	0.93	-0.45	6	25.63	-9.32	73		245	28	175	29
District 50 Southwest Alabama - Coastal Plain 11% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 13% of Soybean Acreage, 32% of Peanut															
Bay Minette	98	69	83	2	1.59	-0.23	5	23.27	-15.96	59		231	14	161	14
Brewton_AG	99	67	84	5	0.50	-1.13	4	24.15	-14.90	62	89	240	30	170	30
Thomasville	99	69	84	4	2.57	1.17	4	26.06	-9.60	73		239	26	169	26
Mobile_Bates	96	71	83	2	1.43	-0.18	3	18.37	-18.53	50		233	6	163	6
District 60 Southeast Alabama - Wiregrass 23% of Corn Acreage, 27% of Cotton Acreage, 4% of Soybean Acreage, 64% of Peanut Acreage.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	98	71	85	5	1.33	0.14	7	23.58	-7.91	75		246	33	176	33
Troy_Municipal	100	69	85	6	1.19	-0.14	2	22.17	-10.46	68		245	35	175	35
Highland Home	97	66	81	2	1.92	0.80	4	26.27	-8.41	76		221	11	151	11
Geneva_Ag	97	66	82	2	1.94	0.36	6	23.99	-10.42	70	88	227	10	157	10
Headland	98	71	85	5	0.30	-1.03	1	17.74	-17.34	51	97	253	36	183	36
Dothan	99	72	85	5	2.09	0.73	4	22.03	-12.42	64		243	33	173	33

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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