



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

● RELEASED: August 7, 2006 -- 3:00 P.M.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [HTTP://WWW.NASS.USDA.GOV/AL](http://www.nass.usda.gov/al)

ISSUE 19

Julie Schmidt, Ag. Statistician

Spotty Rains Bring Some Relief, More Needed

CROP PROGRESS

Sunday, August 6, 2006

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	
			2005	5-Yr Avg.
			Percent	
Corn Dough	93	86	81	87
Corn Dented	69	53	47	65
Cotton Squaring	92	84	99	100
Cotton Setting Bolls	72	62	69	87
Cotton Bolls Opening	2	0	0	2
Soybeans Blooming	84	78	81	69
Soybeans Setting Pods	59	49	61	42
Peanuts Pegged	50	43	68	90

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Friday, August 4, 2006

Crop	Very				
	Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
			Percent		
Corn	55	24	15	6	0
Cotton	33	34	22	11	0
Soybeans	40	38	18	4	0
Peanuts	5	34	43	18	0
Pasture	43	37	17	3	0
Livestock	12	29	44	15	0

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	6.6	68	26	6	0
District 20	6.5	72	28	0	0
District 30	6.7	45	49	6	0
District 40	6.8	67	18	15	0
District 50	6.2	50	31	19	0
District 60	6.8	35	53	12	0
State: Current Week	6.7	54	36	10	0
State: Previous Week	6.7	56	36	8	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Spotty rains over the past week have brought some relief to Alabama's crops and pastures. However, with an average temperature of 95 plus degrees, any soil moisture that is accumulated is quickly dried out. The continued lack of steady rainfall is beginning to cause ponds to dry up, creating problems for livestock producers and irrigation systems. County reporters across the state noted that the rain that fell was isolated and not enough accrual occurred to compensate for the current condition of most crops. Total rainfall accumulated in Mobile since January 1 has reached a deficit of 20.25 inches as calculated by the Agricultural Weather Information Service. Temperatures during the past week were again well above normal, with a high of 104 degrees recorded in Hamilton. Overnight lows

varied from the mid 60's into the low 70's, while daytime highs ranged from the mid 90's well into the 100's.

Cotton/Corn: A little improvement was seen over the past week in both the cotton and corn crops throughout the state. Nevertheless, the majority of both crops remain in very poor to poor condition due to the unrelenting drought conditions. Dale Monks, Cotton Agronomist at Auburn University noted that he has received a few reports of cotton bolls that are beginning to open across northern and central Alabama. In many areas, the bolls set will be too late to significantly help with yields. James D. Jones, Jr., Henry County Extension Agent estimated that the cotton crop is an 85% loss, while the corn is closer to a 95% loss.

Peanuts/Soybeans: The state's peanut crop is lagging because of the continued hot, dry weather conditions. James R. Weeks, Extension Entomologist at the Wiregrass Research & Extension Center reported that pod set development is delayed even in irrigated fields. Insect pressure continues to increase as foliage feeding worms – cutworms, fall armyworms, loopers, corn earworms, and beet armyworms – are present in most peanut fields with only a small percentage of fields having reached treatable levels. Lesser cornstalk borers persist in dryland peanut fields, as redneck peanut worm damage has been detected by scouts and growers across the area. Shane Seay in the Limestone County FSA office stated that the soybeans that are setting pods are not filling out or the beans are very small due to the lingering drought conditions. Donald Mann in the Jackson County FSA office mentioned that another week of high temperatures will harvest most of the soybeans trying to bloom and set pods.

Fruits/Nuts: The 2006 pecan crop has been negatively impacted by the persistent drought conditions. Monte Nesbitt, Research Horticulturist at the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center reported that nut size for early August is 25 to 30% smaller than normal, and the recent rains have occurred too late to compensate for the early deficit. Growers are looking at a light crop of small nuts. Scab pressure has increased, and growers should shorten spray intervals to control it. The citrus crop is progressing normally, although size in many groves is small. Rust mites have caused damage to Satsumas in certain locations, and scouting is recommended throughout the month of August. Blackberry growers are encouraged to perform cultural practices to limit disease pressure, and fungicide applications are advised at this time. Old fruiting canes should be removed and weeds controlled to facilitate air movement around new vegetative canes.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: The majority of pastures remain in very poor to poor condition as cattlemen continue to sell calves early and thin herds. Marion County Extension Agent, Bobby Wallace, mentioned that producers have been feeding cattle for a month, and there is no more hay in the area to be bought. T.H. Gregg, Etowah County Extension Agent indicated that some growers were able to harvest two cuttings of hay.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather For the Period: Monday July 31, 2006 To: Sunday August 6, 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	100	69	85	6	0.00	-0.82	0	29.54	-4.14	88		244	34	174	34
Russellville	100	68	84	8	0.01	-0.82	1	26.38	-9.34	74		244	55	174	55
Belle Mina	101	68	84	7	0.35	-0.52	2	23.55	-11.36	67	91	242	44	172	41
Huntsville Ag	99	71	85	6	0.08	-0.81	2	22.92	-13.48	63		243	39	173	36
Hamilton	104	63	84	7	0.01	-0.92	1	25.29	-12.40	67		238	42	168	42
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 22% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 23% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	99	68	83	4	0.00	-0.95	0	26.77	-8.18	77		234	24	164	24
Cullman Ag	99	67	82	5	0.10	-0.74	2	30.54	-6.89	82	82	234	38	164	38
Sand Mountain	98	67	83	7	0.00	-0.81	0	24.17	-10.81	69	84	238	49	168	49
Gadsden AP	100	68	84	5	0.02	-0.89	1	23.52	-13.21	64		237	34	167	34
Bridgeport	97	68	83	6	1.12	0.13	2	30.08	-7.53	80		236	45	166	43
Guntersville	99	70	84	5	0.09	-0.71	2	25.38	-8.78	74		244	40	174	38
District 30 North Central Alabama - Black Belt 9% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	98	69	84	5	0.47	-0.55	1	23.20	-13.49	63	85	240	37	170	37
Talladega	100	66	83	4	0.15	-0.78	2	27.07	-10.22	73		230	27	160	27
Birmingham AP	97	71	85	6	0.28	-0.68	1	38.79	3.18	109		244	34	174	34
Alabaster	99	69	84	5	0.25	-0.72	1	30.02	-8.14	79		238	35	168	35
Pinson	99	67	83	5	0.78	-0.11	3	28.52	-8.38	77		241	45	171	45
Opelika Wtr_Plt	96	68	81	3	0.95	-0.14	1	28.96	-8.92	76		225	22	155	22
Alexander City	100	69	83	5	0.04	-1.02	1	25.29	-12.31	67		236	33	166	33
Tuscaloosa AP	100	70	84	4	1.43	0.38	2	27.08	-9.32	74		238	21	168	21
Jasper	100	68	83	5	0.10	-0.83	1	31.72	-5.86	84		235	36	165	33
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	98	68	83	4	0.88	-0.17	1	21.33	-15.03	59		241	31	171	31
Marion Junction	101	69	84	5	0.62	-0.32	1	19.87	-15.67	56	87	247	37	177	37
Montgomery AP	101	69	84	4	0.24	-0.70	1	22.70	-12.02	65		241	24	171	24
Livingston	100	70	84	4	1.01	-0.10	2	27.09	-10.25	73		238	28	168	28
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	94	71	82	2	2.00	0.36	5	26.50	-16.11	62		228	11	158	11
Brewton AG	95	69	82	3	1.29	-0.22	5	27.28	-14.88	65	90	231	21	161	21
Thomasville	97	68	83	4	1.10	-0.04	4	27.55	-10.57	72		236	25	166	25
Mobile Bates	94	71	81	-1	1.07	-0.54	6	19.87	-20.25	50		221	-3	151	-3
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	98	71	84	4	1.06	0.06	3	28.22	-5.39	84		241	30	171	29
Troy Municipal	101	68	83	4	0.00	-1.07	0	22.28	-12.65	64		233	23	163	23
Highland Home	98	66	81	1	0.38	-0.63	3	27.08	-9.71	74		218	8	148	8
Geneva Ag	96	70	81	1	3.00	1.57	4	28.23	-9.13	76	88	224	7	154	7
Headland	97	71	83	4	0.48	-0.69	3	19.48	-18.05	52	95	237	23	167	23
Dothan	98	72	84	5	0.57	-0.51	2	23.87	-12.90	65		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.



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
at MONTGOMERY, AL

CROP WEATHER (UPS 421-930) IS
PUBLISHED WEEKLY APR - MID NOV
BY ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
4121 CARMICHAEL RD, STE 200, MONTGOMERY, AL 36124.
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
CROP WEATHER, POB 240578 MONTGOMERY, AL 36124-0578