



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 21

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Record High Temperatures Send Crop Conditions Plummeting

The data reflects the week ending: **August 19, 2007.**

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Dented	93	82	91	87
Corn Mature	60	na	59	51
Cotton Setting Bolls	92	77	86	94
Cotton Bolls Opening	17	6	14	11
Soybeans Blooming	98	93	93	90
Soybeans Setting Pods	78	60	79	68
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	17	na	11	8
Peanuts Pegged	90	80	71	92

CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Percent				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Corn	55	26	16	3	0
Cotton	28	33	28	10	1
Soybeans	39	33	23	5	0
Peanuts	11	32	30	24	3
Livestock	36	23	28	13	0
Pasture & Range	42	35	20	3	0

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Percent			
		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
District 10	6.2	71	29	0	0
District 20	6.9	84	15	1	0
District 30	7.0	73	27	0	0
District 40	6.9	69	26	5	0
District 50	7.0	37	51	12	0
District 60	7.0	63	36	1	0
State: Previous Week	6.8	60	33	7	0
State: Current Week	6.8	69	29	2	0

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: After a second straight week of scorching temperatures, the U.S. Drought Monitor categorized 73.1 percent of Alabama land as suffering from exceptional drought conditions. This was an increase of 21.3 percent from last week. There were no exceptional drought conditions observed in the state a year ago. Temperatures well above the century mark were recorded by weather stations across the state, and were as many as 11 degrees above normal in numerous areas. Hamilton reached a daytime high of 109 degrees, while Bay Minette topped out at 97 degrees. Overnight lows ranged from 63 degrees in Hamilton to 74

degrees in Birmingham and Mobile. Rain showers were seen in many areas across the state, but offered little relief from the catastrophic conditions experienced by most crops already this year. Russell C. Parrish, Jr., Crenshaw County Extension Agent, indicated that 100 plus degree temperatures coupled with little to no rainfall had the county in a situation as bad as or worse than the drought in 2000.

Corn/Soybeans: Alabama's corn crop was reported mostly in very poor or poor condition as harvest got underway in counties with a crop remaining. Heath Potter, Regional Extension Agent for Colbert, Lauderdale and Lawrence Counties, noted that producers had harvested corn yields ranging from 25 to 110 bushels per acre. The higher yielding fields had received adequate late season rains. James D. Jones, Jr., Henry County Extension Agent, reported that corn harvest in the county was underway, and producers indicated poor yields on most dryland fields. The condition of the state's soybean crop grew worse during the past week, with nearly three-quarters of the crop indicated to be very poor or poor. Warren Griffith, Regional Extension Agent for Fayette, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties, stated that the wind and heat continued to diminish soybean yields because the pods were not filling out. Mr. Potter added that there were virtually no soybeans in northwestern Alabama due to unsuitable planting conditions. Those farmers that were able to plant a crop did not expect to have enough production to pay for the harvest.

Cotton/Peanuts: The crop progress that was made after timely July rains deteriorated quickly because of searing temperatures. Shane Seay in the Limestone County FSA office noted that many cotton stands are wilted and scorched. The rain showers that were received were more detrimental than beneficial. Many producers had cotton stands that were either not filling out bolls or the bolls were falling off of plants. Although the majority of the peanut crop was reported in fair to excellent condition, most fields needed rain at the peak time of crop set. Peanut fields in Covington County were reported to have peanuts prematurely drying in the ground.

Fruit/Vegetables: The hot, dry weather negatively impacted the state's vegetable crop, regardless of whether irrigation was available. Dan Porch, Regional Extension Agent, indicated that irrigated and non-irrigated pumpkins looked bad. Disease pressure was high, and the plants were not setting fruit. Some late tomatoes were not setting fruit due to high over night temperatures. False chinch bugs were reported as a problem in one tomato field due to the very dry soil conditions. The market for summer crops was off, but some upward movement was seen over the weekend. Tomatoes, cantaloupes and watermelons had been very cheap.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: During the past week, pasture conditions worsened. Many ponds had dried up, and all other natural water sources were extremely low. Jimmy Smitherman, Montgomery County Extension Agent, mentioned that hay yields are very small, and pastures are very dry. Mr. Parrish noted that some first cuttings of hay in Crenshaw County were fair, but producers are not expecting to get a second cutting without some moisture soon. Livestock found little forage to graze, and spent most of their time in any available shade trying to stay cool.

ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, August 13, 2007 To Sunday, August 19, 2007

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 32% of Corn Acreage, 32% of Cotton Acreage, 39% of Soybean Acreage.															
Muscle Shoals	107	68	88	10	0.65	-0.05	1	19.73	-15.27	56	101	269	67	199	67
Russellville	106	68	87	11	0.96	0.26	1	21.19	-15.86	57		262	80	192	79
Belle Mina	105	70	88	11	0.00	-0.77	0	17.35	-19.00	48		267	73	197	73
Huntsville Ag	105	72	89	11	0.48	-0.24	1	17.92	-19.87	47		270	68	200	69
Hamilton	109	63	86	9	0.81	-0.03	2	21.62	-17.64	55		254	63	184	62
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 21% of Corn Acreage, 5% of Cotton Acreage, 35% of Soybean Acreage.															
Anniston AP	104	69	87	9	0.00	-0.86	0	14.37	-22.22	39	82	263	60	193	59
Cullman Ag	104	68	86	9	0.34	-0.36	1	16.90	-22.06	43		254	65	184	65
Sand Mountain	102	68	84	9	0.00	-0.70	0	19.79	-17.10	54	84	249	67	179	67
Gadsden_AP	102	64	85	7	0.25	-0.45	2	18.50	-19.61	49		247	47	177	46
Bridgeport	103	66	84	8	0.00	-0.84	0	22.07	-17.36	56		241	53	171	53
Guntersville	101	71	86	8	0.25	-0.38	3	21.57	-14.21	60		262	59	192	59
District 30 North Central Alabama - 10% of Corn Acreage, 4% of Cotton Acreage, 8% of Soybean Acreage, 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	105	70	88	11	0.24	-0.67	2	14.40	-24.02	37	88	277	81	207	81
Talladega	103	65	84	7	1.06	0.22	2	17.55	-21.54	45		248	52	178	52
Birmingham_AP	105	74	89	11	0.24	-0.52	3	16.32	-20.74	44		278	75	208	75
Alabaster	105	69	87	9	1.39	0.60	2	17.46	-22.23	44		262	64	192	63
Pinson	107	67	88	11	0.00	-0.75	0	16.08	-22.24	42		275	81	205	81
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	100	66	83	5	0.74	-0.12	2	23.98	-15.57	61		236	40	166	40
Alexander_City	103	69	86	9	0.73	-0.18	2	19.36	-19.97	49		259	63	189	63
Tuscaloosa_AP	106	69	88	9	0.76	-0.09	2	14.68	-23.37	39		269	54	199	54
Jasper	105	67	85	8	1.00	0.28	1	22.60	-16.38	58		252	56	182	57
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 11% of Corn Acreage, 12% of Cotton Acreage, 9% of Soybeans Acreage, 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	103	71	86	7	1.45	0.54	2	19.51	-18.59	51	91	259	51	189	50
Marion Junction	103	73	88	9	0.49	-0.32	1	18.31	-18.77	49		270	65	200	65
Montgomery_AP	106	73	89	9	0.43	-0.34	1	21.03	-15.17	58		274	57	204	57
Livingston	104	70	86	8	1.96	1.14	2	23.98	-14.99	62		257	50	187	49
District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Acreage, 20% of Cotton Acreage, 6% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	97	73	86	6	0.06	-1.40	2	29.09	-16.28	64	94	256	39	186	39
Brewton_AG	100	64	85	6	0.02	-1.35	1	34.15	-10.62	76		255	46	185	46
Thomasville	102	73	86	7	0.66	-0.25	2	21.85	-18.27	54		258	48	188	48
Mobile_Bates	99	74	86	5	0.02	-1.54	2	30.25	-12.81	70		251	27	181	27
District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 20% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Acreage, 3% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Acreage, 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	101	72	86	7	0.86	0.02	1	27.30	-8.51	76	92	256	46	186	46
Troy_Municipal	104	72	86	7	1.31	0.45	1	24.44	-12.16	67		253	49	183	49
Highland Home	104	70	86	7	0.94	-0.02	2	21.29	-17.30	55		253	50	183	50
Geneva_Ag	100	71	85	5	0.47	-0.77	1	34.09	-5.65	86		248	38	178	38
Headland	102	72	86	7	0.39	-0.63	1	22.00	-17.49	56		95	253	43	183
Dothan	102	73	86	7	0.37	-0.50	1	23.11	-15.34	60		254	44	184	44

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), 2007 Weather data prepared by AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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