



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578 ● 1 (800) 832-4181 ● RELEASED: September 2, 2008 -- 3:00 P.M.  
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## Drought Conditions Alleviated by Fay and Gustav

Data tables reflect the week ending: **August 31, 2008.**

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	5-Yr Avg
	Percent			
Corn Dented	98	95	99	98
Corn Mature	87	75	85	78
Corn Harvested	30	16	32	31
Cotton Setting Bolls	99	96	97	98
Cotton Bolls Opening	44	30	39	29
Soybeans Blooming	97	95	100	98
Soybeans Setting Pods	86	79	93	86
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	26	17	50	27

na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	13	20	34	29	4
Cotton	2	12	40	40	6
Peanut	1	1	31	52	15
Soybean	9	18	37	33	3
Livestock	1	14	50	32	3
Pasture & Range	4	17	37	34	8

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	3.2	5	19	74	2
District 20	3.3	1	14	85	0
District 30	4.0	0	0	41	59
District 40	2.0	0	0	18	82
District 50	4.2	0	0	16	84
District 60	4.1	0	0	38	62
State: Current Week	3.4	1	8	52	39
State: Previous Week	6.2	16	23	25	36

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** Tropical storm Fay and hurricane Gustav brought torrential rains to parts of Alabama during the past couple of weeks. Just over 41 percent of the state was categorized as completely drought free, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released for August 26, 2008. Dawn Hoagland, County Executive Director in the Blount County FSA office, noted that between six and twelve inches of rainfall had fallen in the past week, with most of the water absorbed into dry soils. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent located in Autauga County, added that eight to nine inches of precipitation fell around the area. Average temperatures during the past week varied from four degrees below to three degrees above normal.

Daytime highs ranged from 88 degrees at Sand Mountain to 94 degrees in Montgomery. Overnight lows varied from 62 degrees in Belle Mina to 72 degrees in Bay Minette. All weather stations reported receiving rainfall during the past week. Total accumulations ranged from 1.43 inches in Hamilton to a soaking 6.83 inches at Sand Mountain. Other locations receiving substantial rainfall totals were Ababaster with 6.25 inches, Mobile with 6.23 inches, and Gadsden with 5.77 inches.

**Corn/Cotton/Peanuts/Soybeans:** Corn harvest slowed in some areas following the recent tropical weather that left fields in many places too wet to run any equipment across. Charles Burmester, Agronomist at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center, reported that yields had varied greatly depending on location, but there were reports of some dryland corn averaging 80 to 150 bushels per acre. William Birdsong, Agronomist at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, indicated that most producers escaped tropical storm Fay with little to no damage to their crops. However, farmers in a few isolated areas lost 80 to 85 percent of their corn due to strong winds blowing it to the ground. Jim Todd, County Extension Coordinator for Mobile County, stated that hurricane Gustav brought heavy rains and cloud cover, both of which continued to affect the county's cotton crop. A few stands were expected to abort some of the bolls current on the plants, while other stands were still in the development stage and could shut down completely. A portion of the cotton crop in the Wiregrass area suffered some wind damage from Fay, leaving the stalks blown over and twisted. Mr. Birdsong did not expect this damage to affect the yield potential, but ground applications and harvesting could prove to be troublesome. Disease pressure from stinkbugs continued to be a problem in some cotton fields in the Wiregrass region. Producers were planning insecticide sprays as soon as they could get a plane or tractor into their fields. Alabama's soybean crop showed improvement thanks to the recent rainfall received across the state during the past couple of weeks. Mr. Burmester stated that late-planted soybeans benefited immensely from the three to four inches of rain received. Disease and insect pressure was apparent in some fields across the state. Mr. Birdsong mentioned that downy mildew was present in some fields before the storms, and most producers made fungicide applications as a treatment. Podworms and stinkbugs were also present.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Pasture conditions showed improvement during the past week, as more soil moisture was available to promote grass growth. Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent located in Talladega County, mentioned that pastures and hayfields were drying out following the recent storms, and that some producers in the area were harvesting a third cutting of hay. Doyle Barnes, County Executive Director in the Covington County FSA office, added that pastures and hayfields in the county looked very good for this time of year. The state's livestock remained in fair to excellent condition.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, August 25, 2008 to Sunday, August 31, 2008**

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 40% of Corn Ac., 35% of Cotton Ac., 41% of Soybean Ac.															
Muscle Shoals	91	66	77	0	2.92	2.12	3	27.97	-8.43	77		192	2	122	4
Russellville	91	66	76	3	3.37	2.56	3	37.27	-1.22	97		190	18	120	19
Belle Mina	91	62	77	1	2.84	2.06	3	31.56	-6.22	84	84	193	10	123	13
Huntsville Ag	91	66	78	2	3.22	2.40	3	28.16	-11.09	72		199	12	129	13
Hamilton	92	64	76	1	1.43	0.48	3	38.23	-2.72	93		189	8	119	9
District 20: Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 7% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.															
Anniston AP	91	66	78	0	4.88	4.03	3	42.42	4.26	111		197	3	127	4
Cullman Ag	89	63	75	0	3.13	2.23	3	41.23	0.73	102	78	179	2	109	3
Sand Mountain	88	64	74	-2	6.83	5.99	4	33.80	-4.55	88		169	-2	99	-1
Gadsden_AP	91	64	77	0	5.77	5.04	3	28.61	-10.83	73		189	1	119	2
Bridgeport	90	63	75	0	3.52	2.64	5	37.26	-3.77	91		179	4	109	6
Guntersville	91	66	77	0	3.61	2.86	4	32.31	-4.76	87		195	3	125	4
District 30: North Central Alabama - 8% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	91	68	79	3	3.62	2.69	3	44.01	3.88	110		209	21	139	22
Talladega	91	65	77	2	3.73	2.85	4	39.33	-1.35	97		197	11	127	12
Birmingham_AP	92	69	79	2	4.00	3.20	3	43.57	5.06	113		205	12	135	13
Alabaster	91	69	78	1	6.25	5.41	4	45.14	3.95	110		199	9	129	10
Pinson	90	65	77	1	3.94	3.09	3	41.82	1.99	105		189	7	119	8
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	89	65	78	1	2.35	1.49	3	36.39	-4.74	88		196	7	126	7
Alexander_City	91	67	78	2	3.06	2.15	3	40.26	-0.73	98		197	8	127	9
Tuscaloosa_AP	93	69	79	1	1.56	0.79	3	31.63	-7.85	80		208	4	138	4
Jasper	91	66	77	1	2.32	1.54	2	42.63	2.28	106		191	7	121	10
District 40: South Central Alabama - Black Belt 10% of Corn Ac., 8% of Cotton Ac., 5% of Peanut Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	89	63	76	-4	2.11	1.20	2	37.56	-2.23	94		191	-10	121	-9
Marion Junction	91	70	79	1	2.89	2.08	2	35.45	-3.10	92	83	203	7	133	7
Montgomery_AP	94	70	81	2	2.32	1.45	5	38.46	0.72	102		218	8	148	8
Livingston	92	68	78	-1	1.94	1.24	3	40.73	0.40	101		200	2	130	3
District 50: SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Ac., 15% of Cotton Ac., 30% of Peanut Ac., 11% of Soybean Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	93	72	81	2	2.31	0.91	2	47.69	-0.28	99		225	15	155	15
Brewton_AG	92	68	80	1	2.62	1.36	2	54.85	7.70	116	82	210	9	140	9
Thomasville	90	69	78	-2	2.86	1.99	3	40.15	-1.56	96		196	-7	126	-7
Mobile_Bates	93	70	80	-1	6.23	4.69	3	53.92	8.00	117		215	-2	145	-2
District 60: SE Alabama - Wiregrass 18% of Corn Ac., 31% of Cotton Ac., 64% of Peanut Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	92	68	79	1	3.20	2.36	2	43.23	5.86	116		212	9	142	9
Troy_Municipal	93	68	80	2	2.54	1.72	2	36.49	-1.64	96		209	9	139	9
Highland Home	92	65	78	-1	4.34	3.36	2	42.22	1.81	104		195	-2	125	-2
Geneva_Ag	93	66	80	-1	1.65	0.53	3	39.77	-2.10	95	87	216	9	146	9
Headland	92	69	80	1	2.88	1.94	3	38.18	-3.09	93	87	217	14	147	14
Dothan	92	68	81	3	1.63	0.76	3	32.89	-7.14	82		215	12	145	12

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), 2008. Weather data prepared By AWIS, Inc. For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.

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