



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 25

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## Rainfall Light Across Many Regions

Data tables reflect the week ending: **September 21, 2008.**

### CROP PROGRESS

| Crop                     | This Week | Last Week | 2007 | 5-Yr Avg |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|
|                          | Percent   |           |      |          |
| Corn Harvested           | 67        | 52        | 79   | 75       |
| Cotton Bolls Opening     | 72        | 61        | 79   | 77       |
| Cotton Harvested         | 2         | 1         | 9    | 7        |
| Peanuts Dug              | 18        | 6         | 9    | 18       |
| Peanuts Combined         | 10        | 2         | 6    | 11       |
| Soybeans Setting Pods    | 98        | 96        | 100  | 99       |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 53        | 43        | 74   | 62       |
| Soybeans Harvested       | 7         | 3         | 16   | 13       |

na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

| Crop            | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Exc. |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|
|                 | Percent   |      |      |      |      |
| Cotton          | 3         | 12   | 36   | 43   | 6    |
| Peanut          | 1         | 1    | 25   | 55   | 18   |
| Soybean         | 7         | 17   | 36   | 35   | 5    |
| Livestock       | 0         | 12   | 48   | 37   | 3    |
| Pasture & Range | 3         | 14   | 33   | 42   | 8    |

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

|                      | Days Suitable | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
|                      |               | Percent    |       |          |         |
| District 10          | 6.0           | 16         | 38    | 46       | 0       |
| District 20          | 5.9           | 0          | 35    | 65       | 0       |
| District 30          | 5.0           | 0          | 0     | 100      | 0       |
| District 40          | 7.0           | 0          | 5     | 95       | 0       |
| District 50          | 6.2           | 0          | 0     | 88       | 12      |
| District 60          | 6.3           | 0          | 17    | 79       | 4       |
| State: Current Week  | 6.2           | 4          | 22    | 72       | 2       |
| State: Previous Week | 5.5           | 4          | 19    | 70       | 7       |

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** Over half of Alabama continued to suffer from abnormally dry to severe hydrological drought conditions following a week of light showers across most of the state. While just under one percent of the state was categorized as suffering from severe drought conditions, 17.2 percent was classified in a moderate drought, and 40.7 was abnormally dry, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released for September 16, 2008. Comments from respondents in Montgomery, Mobile, and Covington County indicated the need for a soaking rainfall. Temperatures cooled off in many locations around the state during the past week. Averages varied from five

degrees below normal in Thomasville to one degree above normal in Thorsby and Dothan. Daytime highs ranged from 83 degrees in Russellville, Belle Mina, and Cullman and 93 degrees in Dothan. Overnight lows varied between 53 degrees in Muscle Shoals, Russellville, and Hamilton and 64 degrees in Thorsby. All weather stations reported receiving rainfall during the past week. Total accumulations ranged from 0.01 inches in Marion Junction, Montgomery, and Troy to 1.65 inches over a four day period in Mobile. Year-to-date precipitation totals ranged from -12.67 inches below normal in Huntsville to a 7.83 surplus inches in Mobile.

**Corn/Cotton/Peanuts/Soybeans:** The state's corn harvest pushed forward during the past week, but lagged drastically behind last year and the five-year average. Alabama's cotton crop showed signs of improvement during the past week. Nearly half was reported in good to excellent condition. Producers have just begun to crank up their cotton pickers and strippers for this year's harvest. Progress was well behind last year because wet fields delayed planting in many areas this spring. Charles Burmester, Extension Agronomist at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center, reported that yields on some of the early-picked cotton ranged from 400 to 500 pounds per acre. Peanut producers in the Wiregrass region harvested a mostly good to excellent crop at a pace on schedule the five-year average. Farmers gained ground on their soybean harvest during the past week, but progress lingered nine percent below last year, and six percent below the five-year average. Some producers made insecticide applications to control stink bugs in late-planted fields. Mr. Burmester also mentioned that producers were making desiccant applications to early-planted soybean fields because the plants were slow to dry down. Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agent located in Autauga County, stated that producers were spent the past week wrapping up corn harvest, defoliating cotton, and preparing fields for small grain seeding.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Pastures across most of the state continued to show slight improvements during the past week. Kenneth Kelley, Regional Extension Agent located in Mobile County, indicated that summer perennial pastures were beginning to taper off, and that many livestock producers started to plant annuals for grazing during the winter months. The state's livestock remained in fair to excellent condition.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for: Monday, September 15, 2008 to Sunday, September 21, 2008**

| Weather Station   | Air Temperatures |     |     |     | Precipitation |       |      | Precipitation since Jan 1 |        |          | Avg. 4"<br>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   | 85               | 53  | 70  | -2  | 0.22          | -0.76 | 2    | 28.83                     | -10.47 | 73       |                      | 142         | -12 | 72          | -11 |
| Russellville  | 83               | 53  | 69  | -1  | 0.14          | -0.88 | 2    | 38.13                     | -3.33  | 92       |                      | 138         | 1   | 68          | 0   |
| Belle Mina  | 83               | 55  | 69  | -3  | 0.7           | -0.15 | 2    | 32.5                      | -7.86  | 81       | 78                   | 140         | -5  | 70          | -6  |
| Huntsville Ag   | 85               | 56  | 71  | 0   | 0.98          | 0     | 4    | 29.49                     | -12.67 | 70       |                      | 151         | 2   | 81          | 2   |
| Hamilton  | 85               | 53  | 69  | -3  | 0.77          | -0.32 | 3    | 41.06                     | -3.15  | 93       |                      | 137         | -8  | 67          | -8  |
| District 20: Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 7% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.                                |                  |     |     |     |               |       |      |                           |        |          |                      |             |     |             |     |
| Anniston AP   | 87               | 62  | 72  | -2  | 0.19          | -0.64 | 2    | 43.22                     | 2.47   | 106      |                      | 154         | -5  | 84          | -5  |
| Cullman Ag  | 83               | 56  | 69  | -2  | 1.12          | -0.11 | 3    | 42.56                     | -1.49  | 97       | 75                   | 140         | -2  | 70          | -4  |
| Sand Mountain   | 84               | 57  | 69  | 0   | 0.37          | -0.74 | 1    | 35.16                     | -6.44  | 85       |                      | 135         | 0   | 65          | -2  |
| Gadsden_AP  | 88               | 61  | 72  | 0   | 0.1           | -0.74 | 1    | 29.47                     | -12.47 | 70       |                      | 152         | 0   | 82          | 1   |
| Bridgeport  | 88               | 57  | 69  | 0   | 0.42          | -0.58 | 1    | 37.85                     | -6.17  | 86       |                      | 143         | 7   | 73          | 6   |
| Guntersville  | 84               | 60  | 71  | -2  | 0.87          | -0.17 | 2    | 33.42                     | -6.65  | 83       |                      | 154         | -3  | 84          | -4  |
| District 30: North Central Alabama - 8% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.                               |                  |     |     |     |               |       |      |                           |        |          |                      |             |     |             |     |
| Thorsby   | 88               | 64  | 73  | 1   | 0.12          | -0.81 | 2    | 47.19                     | 4.17   | 110      |                      | 171         | 13  | 101         | 13  |
| Talladega   | 88               | 59  | 71  | -2  | 0.19          | -0.78 | 2    | 41.56                     | -2.04  | 95       |                      | 147         | -7  | 77          | -7  |
| Birmingham_AP   | 87               | 58  | 72  | -1  | 0.35          | -0.6  | 2    | 43.97                     | 2.61   | 106      |                      | 159         | 0   | 89          | 0   |
| Alabaster   | 87               | 61  | 72  | -1  | 0.69          | -0.22 | 2    | 47.08                     | 3.09   | 107      |                      | 155         | -5  | 85          | -5  |
| Pinson  | 85               | 57  | 71  | 0   | 0.11          | -0.9  | 1    | 42.24                     | -0.6   | 99       |                      | 147         | 2   | 77          | 1   |
| Opelika_Wtr_Plt   | 89               | 59  | 71  | -2  | 0.17          | -0.75 | 1    | 36.84                     | -7.1   | 84       |                      | 159         | -1  | 89          | -1  |
| Alexander_City  | 88               | 59  | 71  | -2  | 0.05          | -0.86 | 1    | 40.78                     | -3.01  | 93       |                      | 149         | -8  | 79          | -8  |
| Tuscaloosa_AP   | 88               | 59  | 73  | -2  | 0.32          | -0.45 | 3    | 32.23                     | -9.56  | 77       |                      | 167         | -3  | 97          | -4  |
| Jasper  | 85               | 57  | 70  | -1  | 0.8           | -0.15 | 2    | 45.01                     | 1.93   | 104      |                      | 149         | 3   | 79          | 4   |
| 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   | 87               | 60  | 72  | -4  | 1.09          | 0.21  | 1    | 39.41                     | -3.08  | 93       |                      | 156         | -16 | 86          | -15 |
| Marion Junction   | 90               | 60  | 72  | -2  | 0.01          | -0.83 | 1    | 35.7                      | -5.37  | 87       | 81                   | 161         | -2  | 91          | -3  |
| Montgomery_AP   | 92               | 61  | 75  | -2  | 0.01          | -0.96 | 1    | 39.64                     | -1.09  | 97       |                      | 176         | -6  | 106         | -6  |
| Livingston  | 89               | 57  | 72  | -3  | 0.94          | 0.17  | 2    | 43.09                     | 0.52   | 101      |                      | 157         | -9  | 87          | -8  |
| 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   | 90               | 63  | 76  | 0   | 1.05          | -0.19 | 3    | 55.65                     | 3.68   | 107      |                      | 193         | 7   | 123         | 7   |
| Brewton_AG  | 90               | 56  | 73  | -2  | 0.06          | -0.95 | 1    | 56.97                     | 6.52   | 113      | 79                   | 166         | -6  | 96          | -6  |
| Thomasville   | 88               | 57  | 71  | -5  | 0.4           | -0.46 | 3    | 40.93                     | -3.46  | 92       |                      | 152         | -22 | 82          | -22 |
| Mobile_Bates  | 88               | 59  | 74  | -4  | 1.65          | 0.3   | 4    | 58.15                     | 7.83   | 116      |                      | 172         | -19 | 102         | -19 |
| 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  | 91               | 63  | 74  | 0   | 0.44          | -0.36 | 2    | 44.29                     | 4.44   | 111      |                      | 175         | 2   | 105         | 2   |
| Troy_Municipal  | 92               | 62  | 75  | 0   | 0.01          | -0.79 | 1    | 36.65                     | -3.96  | 90       |                      | 175         | 0   | 105         | 0   |
| Highland Home   | 88               | 57  | 71  | -4  | 0.64          | -0.3  | 2    | 43.85                     | 0.47   | 101      |                      | 157         | -15 | 87          | -15 |
| Geneva_Ag   | 92               | 59  | 74  | -3  | 1.1           | 0.18  | 1    | 40.96                     | -3.89  | 91       | 86                   | 174         | -10 | 104         | -9  |
| Headland  | 90               | 63  | 75  | 0   | 0.39          | -0.44 | 1    | 40.04                     | -3.87  | 91       | 86                   | 181         | 4   | 111         | 4   |
| Dothan  | 93               | 63  | 76  | 1   | 0.65          | -0.25 | 1    | 33.73                     | -9.03  | 79       |                      | 184         | 6   | 114         | 6   |

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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