

# ALASKA CROP-WEATHER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

USDA, NASS, Alaska Field Office  
P.O. Box 799  
Palmer, AK 99645

**RELEASED:** August 18, 2008

**GENERAL:** There were **5.0 days suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 85% adequate, 15% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were listed as 100% adequate. **Barley** was 5% ripe, mostly in the Fairbanks area. **Oats** were reported as 60% turning color. Condition of the barley crop was 30% fair, 45% good, 25% excellent. Condition of the oat crop was 25% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. **Potatoes** were reported as 40% in bloom. Condition of the potato crop was 15% fair, 80% good, 5% excellent. **Hay** harvest was 80% complete statewide. Hay condition was rated as 20% poor, 30% fair, 50% good.

**Crop growth** was rated 30% slow, 70% moderate. **Wind or rain damage** to crops was reported as 85% none, 10% light, 5% moderate. The main **farm activities** for the week were harvesting hay & vegetables, weed control, general maintenance.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY August 11 -August 17, 2008		
DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK: 5.0		
CROP	TOPSOIL MOISTURE	SUBSOIL MOISTURE
SHORT	0%	0%
ADEQUATE	85%	100%
SURPLUS	15%	0%
PAN EVAPORATION FOR 08/11 – 08/17 MAT AES SITE: +0.592		

**TANANA VALLEY:** An average of **6.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**. Temperatures dipped below freezing in the Delta Junction area last week. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 80% adequate, 20% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 100% adequate. **Barley** was reported as 5% ripe, mostly around Fairbanks. **Oats** were reported as 65% turning color. Condition of the barley crop was 30% fair, 45% good, 25% excellent. Condition of the oat crop was 30% fair, 50% good, 20% excellent. **Hay** harvest was 90% complete; second cutting was underway on a very limited basis. Condition of hay was rated as 25% poor, 25% fair, 50% good. **Crop growth** was rated 25% slow, 75% moderate. **Wind or rain damage** was reported as 85% none, 5% light, 10% moderate. **Farm activities** for the week included harvesting hay and preparing for grain harvest.

**MATANUSKA VALLEY:** An average of **5.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 95% adequate, 5% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was also reported as 95% adequate, 5% surplus. **Potatoes** were 50% in bloom. **Hay** harvest was 70% complete. Condition of hay was rated as 10% poor, 35% fair, 55% good. **Crop growth** was rated 35% slow, 65% moderate. **Wind or rain damage** was reported as 95% none, 5% light. Major **farm activities** during the week included weed control, general maintenance, harvesting hay, native grass seeds and vegetables,.

**KENAI PENINSULA:** There were **3.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week**. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 90% adequate, 10% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 100% adequate. **Potatoes** were 80% in bloom. **Hay** harvest was 70% complete. Condition of hay was rated as 25% poor, 25% fair, 25% good, 25% excellent. **Crop growth** was rated 85% moderate, 15% rapid. Major **farm activities** for the week included trying to harvest hay, general maintenance.

## Soil Temperatures ( F<sup>0</sup> ) at 4 inch depth

	<u>Grass</u>			<u>Fallow land</u>			<u>Temperature</u>		<u>Precip</u>
	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006	High	Low	(inches)
UAF-AFES, Trunk Road	59	60	54	60	57	52	67	44	.12
Sawmill Creek	49	na	49	na	na	na	73	30	.10
Plant Materials Center	53	55	na	na	na	na	66	42	.14

### PAN EVAPORATION

Pan evaporation is an indirect estimation of evapotranspiration or consumptive water use by plants. For purposes of watering or irrigation of plants, it is a good indicator of climatic effects on water use by crops. A positive reading indicates that evaporation exceeded precipitation.

Weather Summary For Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday August 11, 2008  
 To: Sunday August 17, 2008

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 08 - August 17, 08 GDD						
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F			BASE
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT	
Fairbanks_Intl	76	41	59	+3	0.75	3	9.38	+4.58	53	747	-121	1769	
Fairbanks/Eiels	74	35	56	-1	0.92	5	13.34	+7.28	60	526	-297	1488	
Nenana_Muni_AM	73	43	57	+2	0.59	5	9.60	+4.94	51	548	-197	1513	
Ftgreely/Allen	71	35	54	-3	0.09	2	10.77	+3.50	52	462	-295	1418	
Healy_River_Air	68	40	54	-2	0.40	5	5.49	-1.65	62	358	-254	1232	
Gulkana_Arpt_A	68	31	51	-3	0.10	3	5.88	+0.86	41	260	-165	1126	
Sutton	64	43	53	-3	0.61	7	6.18	+0.20	75	188	-247	1043	
Palmer_Municipa	67	44	57	+1	0.09	4	3.60	-1.68	34	390	-178	1378	
Talkeetna	68	40	56	+0	0.88	5	7.07	-2.71	43	391	-189	1319	
Willow_Airport	66	45	57	-1	0.67	6	6.13	+1.27	67	479	-92	1461	
Anchorage_Intl	64	48	56	-1	1.29	3	6.12	+1.05	34	341	-226	1268	
Kenai_Municipal	67	39	55	+2	0.52	5	3.29	-1.86	40	273	-46	1138	
Homer	64	40	53	-2	0.63	5	5.12	+0.53	42	145	-129	941	
Kodiak	63	43	53	-3	2.50	4	34.73	+16.85	60	175	-117	930	

For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com)  
 or call 1-888-798-9955.

Copyright 2008: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.  
 All rights reserved.

Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service  
 PO Box 799  
 Palmer, AK 99645