



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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## Rainfall Welcomed; Wheat Harvest Draws Close

Data tables reflect the week ending: **May 4, 2008.**

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	95	87	93	90
Corn Emerged	81	64	78	64
Cotton Planted	38	17	24	46
Peanuts Planted	12	4	11	12
Soybeans Planted	23	12	22	17
Soybeans Emerged	9	na	9	3
Hay Harvested 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	21	na	na	na
Percent of Feed from Pastures	83	83	na	na

na = not available

### CROP/LVSTK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	0	2	10	83	5
Winter Wheat	0	0	10	62	28
Livestock	0	5	30	62	3
Pasture & Range	0	6	26	60	8

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	5.3	10	17	73	0
District 20	4.8	0	7	93	0
District 30	6.5	0	12	88	0
District 40	6.0	0	17	81	2
District 50	6.4	4	46	48	2
District 60	6.0	3	24	70	3
State: Current Week	5.6	4	20	75	1
State: Previous Week	6.0	4	17	77	2

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** A storm system brought beneficial rainfall to most of Alabama during the latter part of the past week. However, most weather stations across the state had year-to-date precipitation totals that remained below normal for this time of year. Temperatures across the state were cooler than normal, falling to as many as 6 degrees below average in Guntersville, Talladega, Opelika, Troy, and Highland Home. Daytime highs ranged from 78 degrees in Cullman to 86 degrees in Geneva, Headland, and Dothan. Overnight lows varied from 35 degrees in Hamilton and Highland Home to 46 degrees in Mobile, Headland, and Dothan. All weather stations reported receiving rainfall, with Guntersville totaling 2.45 inches over a period of four days. Alabama producers spent time planting cotton and peanuts, applying herbicides and fertilizers to

corn and cotton, and preparing to harvest winter wheat, and harvesting their first cutting of hay during the past week.

**Small Grains:** As harvest neared, the state's winter wheat crop remained in mostly good to excellent condition during the past week. Alex Brand, County Executive Director in the Wilcox County FSA office, stated that wheat stands in the area were maturing, and beginning to dry. Producers were expected to begin harvesting their wheat crop within the next three weeks.

**Corn/Cotton/Soybeans/Peanuts:** Overall, Alabama's corn crop lingered in good to excellent condition. Cindy Owens, County Executive Director in the Fayette County FSA office, mentioned that producers were side-dressing corn with fertilizer. Olin F. Farrior, County Extension Coordinator in Escambia County, reported that cotton producers have spent time discussing marketing plans for their cotton crop. The difference between prices seen on the Chicago Board of Trade and prices received by farmers at the local level was high. This left some Alabama cotton farmers struggling to market this year's crop. Soybean producers were busy in their fields. Planting progress pushed ahead of last year and the five-year average. Ms. Owens noted that some Group 5 soybeans were planted in Fayette County. Those that emerged during the past week looked very good. Peanut planting was underway in Districts 40, 50, and 60.

**Fruit/Vegetables:** Rainfall was adequate, and no major pest problems had been detected in the central part of the state. Plum curculio numbers remained low, but steady. Larvae were seen exiting small, infested fruit, and entering the soil. Adult emergence was expected to occur in approximately four weeks, or during the week of May 26<sup>th</sup>. Bobby Boozer, Research Horticulturist at the Chilton Research and Extension Center, indicated that peach fruit were growing well, especially in orchards that were thinned early either by the freeze in late March, or by hand. A high number of aborted fruit was observed in trees that set a heavy crop and had slow leaf development. Orchard producers were wrapping up hand thinning operations, and continued pest management activities.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Alabama pasture conditions showed slight improvement during the past week, but more rainfall was needed to allow for additional growth. Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent located in Talladega County, mentioned that more producers in the area were focusing on weed control as a means of improving pasture quality due to the high cost of fertilizers. Producers began harvesting the year's first cutting of hay. However, baling was slowed in some areas because of rain showers late in the week. Livestock were reported in better condition, as more nutritious feedstuffs have become available this spring.

**ALABAMA'S Weekly Crop Weather for the Period: Monday, April 28, 2008 To Sunday, May 4, 2008**

Weather Station	Air Temperatures				Precipitation			Precipitation since Jan 1			Avg. 4"	GDD Base 50		GDD Base 60	
	High	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	% Normal	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Total	DFN
District 10 Northwest Alabama - Tennessee Valley 40% of Corn Ac., 32% of Cotton Ac., 41% of Soybean Ac.															
Muscle Shoals	81	37	62	-4	0.86	-0.23	2	13.65	-6.38	68		88	-17	34	-7
Russellville	81	37	61	-3	1.19	-0.04	2	16.83	-5.24	76		87	2	34	7
Belle Mina	80	37	61	-4	1.06	0.01	3	16.24	-5.41	75	68	82	-17	29	-8
Huntsville Ag	83	40	63	-3	0.93	-0.20	3	15.78	-6.62	70		92	-10	35	-4
Hamilton	82	35	60	-4	1.48	0.15	2	19.79	-3.51	85		82	-8	27	-3
District 20 Northeast Alabama - Appalachian Foothills 18% of Corn Ac., 5% of Cotton Ac., 28% of Soybean Ac.															
Anniston AP	82	40	64	-3	0.88	-0.18	2	19.30	-3.19	86		97	-16	37	-8
Cullman Ag	78	38	61	-4	2.10	0.88	3	21.95	-1.74	93	65	83	-18	27	-10
Sand Mountain	79	38	60	-4	1.57	0.45	3	18.95	-3.58	84		75	-14	23	-6
Gadsden_AP	81	37	62	-4	1.72	0.53	3	14.27	-9.03	61		83	-19	30	-7
Bridgeport	80	36	59	-4	2.12	0.93	3	19.38	-4.10	83		69	-18	18	-9
Guntersville	80	42	61	-6	2.45	1.28	4	18.47	-3.38	85		91	-18	34	-10
District 30 North Central Alabama - 9% of Corn Ac., 4% of Cotton Ac., 6% of Soybean Ac., 71% of Peach Trees.															
Thorsby	81	41	63	-4	1.61	0.61	4	17.86	-5.41	77	67	103	-12	41	-6
Talladega	82	36	61	-6	1.71	0.66	3	20.33	-3.13	87		84	-25	27	-16
Birmingham_AP	81	43	64	-3	1.10	-0.02	3	19.35	-2.42	89		101	-9	41	-4
Alabaster	82	44	65	-2	1.59	0.53	3	23.06	-1.07	96		103	-6	40	-2
Pinson	83	37	63	-2	1.85	0.66	3	19.20	-3.96	83		94	-3	37	3
Opelika_Wtr_Plt	81	36	60	-6	0.69	-0.29	2	20.09	-3.65	85		84	-22	24	-16
Alexander_City	81	37	62	-4	1.31	0.26	2	21.71	-1.68	93		93	-16	33	-11
Tuscaloosa_AP	81	43	66	-2	1.72	0.63	3	18.13	-4.70	79		113	-9	47	-6
Jasper	80	40	61	-3	2.10	0.91	3	20.94	-2.48	89		98	3	39	6
District 40 South Central Alabama - Black Belt 10% of Corn Ac., 12% of Cotton Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 21% of Pecan Trees.															
Union Springs	83	39	64	-5	0.36	-0.53	2	14.61	-6.87	68		98	-25	36	-17
Marion Junction	81	41	64	-4	2.04	1.07	3	18.12	-4.35	81	74	109	-9	44	-6
Montgomery_AP	84	40	66	-3	1.07	0.16	2	16.28	-5.28	76		114	-15	48	-11
Livingston	82	43	64	-4	1.26	0.16	2	19.16	-4.03	83		114	-7	47	-5
District 50 SW Alabama - Coastal Plain 6% of Corn Ac., 20% of Cotton Ac., 11% of Soybean Ac., 32% of Peanut Ac., 51% of Pecan Trees.															
Bay Minette	81	45	67	-5	1.44	0.33	3	24.95	1.91	108		125	-24	55	-24
Brewton_AG	81	43	66	-4	1.18	0.19	2	23.73	0.44	102	74	119	-14	49	-14
Thomasville	80	43	64	-5	1.86	0.82	4	20.34	-2.81	88		104	-24	37	-22
Mobile_Bates	80	46	68	-5	1.84	0.65	2	25.65	3.67	117		125	-25	55	-25
District 60 SE Alabama - Wiregrass 18% of Corn Ac., 27% of Cotton Ac., 7% of Soybean Ac., 64% of Peanut Ac., 23% of Pecan Trees.															
Eufaula_Wildlife	84	41	65	-4	0.62	-0.22	3	21.12	0.73	104		107	-16	41	-12
Troy_Municipal	83	38	63	-6	0.22	-0.62	1	19.33	-1.43	93		94	-31	33	-24
Highland Home	83	35	62	-6	0.45	-0.53	2	21.79	-0.92	96		97	-28	35	-23
Geneva_Ag	86	39	65	-5	0.73	-0.04	3	21.91	1.60	108	77	114	-24	47	-21
Headland	86	46	66	-4	0.27	-0.66	3	17.83	-3.86	82	76	124	-14	55	-13
Dothan	86	46	68	-2	0.31	-0.53	3	15.83	-5.84	73		125	-12	55	-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.