

Arkansas

Crop Progress and Condition



Arkansas
Field Office

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Reporting for the week ending April 8, 2007.

General

Last week's weather was characterized by warm, mild temperatures early in the week and much colder than normal temperatures late in the week. Low temperatures ranged from 16 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit with Gilbert down to 16 degrees Fahrenheit, and Fayetteville and Claico Rock down to 17 degrees Fahrenheit. On average, there were 5.5 days suitable for field work. Precipitation was spotty across the state with central Arkansas receiving the most, 0.65 inches in Little Rock. State average topsoil moisture supplies were 6 percent very short, 29 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. The subsoil moisture supplies were 3 percent very short, 27 percent short and 70 percent adequate.

Crops

Late last week, Arkansas crops were exposed to below average temperatures. Damage from the freezing temperatures has not yet been fully assessed. Corn, sorghum, and rice emerged were at 46, 14, and 5 percent, respectively. Producers were able to remain well ahead of last year's planting progress and the 5-year averages with 85 percent of the corn crop and 36 percent of the sorghum crop planted. Rice farmers had 25 percent of this year's rice crop planted by the week's end. Wheat progress surged ahead of normal to 44 percent headed by the end of the week, compared to 14 percent last year and the 5-year average of 5 percent. In addition to row crops, landscape ornamentals received minor frost damage in central Arkansas. Producers were waiting to assess freeze damage to fruit and berry crops.

Livestock

Cattle remained in mostly good condition last week. Alfalfa improved to 54 percent good to excellent, compared to 42 percent the previous week. Warm season grasses suffered damage as a result of the below freezing temperatures. Last week, livestock producers worked cattle and continued fertilizer and weed control applications to pastureland.

Percent of Progress

Crop	Stage	Current Week	Previous Week	2006	5-Year Avg
Corn	Planted	85	70	69	55
	Emerged	46	24	31	20
Sorghum	Planted	36	27	15	11
	Emerged	14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rice	Planted	25	17	13	11
	Emerged	5	n/a	0	0
Winter Wheat	Headed	44	14	14	5

Condition in Percentages

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	16	43	35	6
Winter Wheat	0	11	35	36	18
Hay-Alfalfa	0	0	46	41	13
Hay-Other	0	17	52	27	4
Pasture and Range	1	18	39	39	3

