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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 30, 2002

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Daily rains continued over the Peninsula during the week of June 23 through 29. Scattered showers also brought much needed moisture to some Panhandle localities during the period. Rainfall totaled from about a quarter of an inch at Pensacola to nearly eight inches at Tavares. Cloud cover again kept temperatures from one to three degrees below normal at the major stations. Daytime highs were mostly in the 80s while nighttime lows were mostly in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: The daily rains over the Peninsula caused some flooding in lowland areas. Topsoil and subsoil moisture is mostly adequate with short to very short supplies reported for some Panhandle areas and a few northern Peninsula localities. Some southern Peninsula localities report surplus moisture supplies, especially along the Atlantic coast. Tobacco is in good condition with harvesting very active. Tobacco collection centers at Madison and Live Oak will open in a couple of weeks. Peanuts are in fair to mostly good condition with 45 percent of the crop pegged. Last year, 64 percent of peanuts were pegged by this date while the five-year average of peanuts pegged by this date is 50 percent. Cotton remains in mostly good condition with more acreage showing blooms.

CITRUS: Most of Florida's citrus belt received rain and thunderstorms every day this week. Rainfall accumulations were in the two to six inch range, with some isolated areas recording up to 10 inches for the week. Several growers and caretakers closed their grove entrances due to standing water in the roads and grove middles. Trees in all areas look very good due to the rains. Virtually all resets and young trees are covered with an abundance of new summer growth. New crop fruit is making very good progress with the help of the tropical summer weather. Most all new crop oranges are larger than golf balls and the new grapefruit are generally bigger than baseball size. Harvest of Valencia oranges is just about over for the season as supplies of available fruit are almost depleted. Movement of grapefruit is down to the last few groves with fruit going to a handful of small packers and processors.

Caretakers are very active mowing, chopping and discing cover crops which helped move some of the excess water from the recent rains. Hedging, topping and burning of limbs and dead trees continues in all areas. Summer sprays and fertilizations are being applied between the rains.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
Percent						
Very short	1	1	3	4	4	11
Short	10	22	29	22	54	45
Adequate	48	70	57	39	35	32
Surplus	41	7	11	35	7	11

Estimated boxes harvested week ended			
Crop	Jun 16	Jun 23	Jun 30
Valencia oranges	3,329,000	1,839,000	361,000
All grapefruit	70,000	64,000	6,000

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture condition in most Peninsula areas is good while Panhandle pastures range from poor to good depending on the amount of rain received recently. Cattle are in fair to mostly good condition.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
Percent				
Very poor	0	5	0	0
Poor	5	10	5	10
Fair	15	50	20	45
Good	75	35	75	45
Excellent	5	0	0	0

VEGETABLES: Watermelon supplies are dwindling as more producers finish harvesting. Okra harvesting remains active in Miami-Dade County. Rains interrupted the tomato harvest around Quincy with supplies declining seasonally.

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In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.