



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending July 17, 2011

Widespread Rainfall Improves Crops and Pastures

Weather Summary: Florida’s agricultural producers appreciated a week of soaking rains to help crops and pastures grow. Nine of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations had rain levels of over three inches. Seventeen stations reported rainfall from one to three inches. The most rainfall for the week was reported at Kenansville (9.34 inches), Carrabelle (8.49 inches), Jay (6.95 inches), Belle Glade (4.67 inches), and Palmdale (4.09 inches). The rainfall in recent weeks improved soil moisture for crops and pastures, but the lingering effects of months of drought conditions was still evident. While the week’s rainfall outpaced the water usage and evaporation from Lake Okeechobee, the water level at 10.13 feet as of July 18, was low enough to require the continuation of water usage restrictions. The amount of area rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having extreme and exceptional drought decreased by 13 percent during the week from 44 percent to 31 percent. The area rated as having no drought was 10 percent last week compared to 7 percent the previous week and 96 percent a year ago. Average temperatures ranged from one to three degrees above normal. Highs were in the mid-90s and lows were in the mid-70s. Topsoil and subsoil moisture improved from the previous week with fewer reports with a very short rating. Topsoil moisture ratings were 3 percent very short, 22 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture ratings were 6 percent very short, 30 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	11	1	3	13	0	6
Short	13	24	22	22	12	30
Adequate	68	66	69	58	76	61
Surplus	8	9	6	7	12	3

Field Crops: Widespread rains were welcomed by producers last week to help revitalize crops. In Jackson County, recent rains improved crop growth, but most cotton and peanut fields appeared to be three to four weeks behind average development. The extreme western Panhandle was still short on rainfall, but showers appeared with greater frequency. In Wakulla County, recent rains greatly improved growing conditions throughout the county. In South Florida, rains sustained sugarcane affected by drought. Peanuts appeared to respond somewhat favorably to the rains. The peanut condition was 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 44 percent good, and none excellent. The five-year average condition was 4 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Several pests were observed in peanut fields including rednecked peanut worms, armyworms, white mold, and tomato spotted wilt virus. Peanuts pegged progressed to 55 percent, compared to the five-year average of 64 percent.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: July 17, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pegged	54	64	55

Vegetables: In Gadsden County, planting of fall tomatoes was on schedule. In Miami-Dade County, famers were harvesting okra.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture and cattle conditions were mostly good for the first time this year. However, the condition of pasture in the **Panhandle** remained mostly fair. In the **Panhandle**, pasture ranged from very poor to excellent. Pastures have greened up, but grass growth was well behind normal for July. Daily showers gave relief for pastures. The condition of the cattle was mostly fair to good, with most ranches no longer having to feed hay to supplement short pasture. In the **northern** areas, pasture and cattle were in poor to excellent condition, with most in good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture and cattle condition varied from very poor to excellent, with most in good condition. Recent rains helped improve pastures, but stock pond water levels were still low. In the **southwestern** areas, pasture and cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent, with most in good condition. The pasture condition improved from the previous week.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	3	1
Poor.....	6	7	8	8
Fair.....	45	35	40	30
Good.....	45	54	45	55
Excellent.....	3	3	4	6

Citrus: Temperatures were in the lower 70s at night and the mid to lower 90s during the day for the majority of the week. Heavier rainfall continued this week, with all but one of the stations receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.26 inches in Pierson, to 9.35 inches in Kenansville. Extreme drought conditions existed in parts of Martin, St Lucie, Palm Beach, and Indian River counties. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated July 12, 2011. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, applying herbicides, hedging and topping, brush removal, and fertilizer applications.

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.