



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; September 28, 2009

Week Ending September 27, 2009

## FALL HARVEST WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE

Incessant rainfall over the past two weeks brought harvest efforts to a virtual standstill across the state. As a result, harvest progress for all of the state's major crops is about three weeks or more behind schedule. Some farmers have begun to worry about the impact of the rainfall on grain quality and quantity. Also of concern is crop development which continues to lag behind the 5-year average. Less than 10 percent of the cotton crop has been defoliated compared to a 5-yr average of over 50 percent. Over half of the state's soybeans were dropping leaves by week's end. Harvest for all tobacco types has now reached the three-fourths complete mark. Hay growers again reported the need for drier weather to allow for late season cuttings.

There was only 1 day suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 53 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 5 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 39 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 4 to 7 degrees above normal across the entire state last week. Rainfall averaged above normal last week with the highest amounts mainly across Middle and East Tennessee.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2008	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<b>Percent</b>					<b>Percent</b>				
Corn – Mature	83	69	94	98	Cotton	0	2	24	55	19
Corn – Harvested	16	13	63	76	Hay	0	6	23	55	16
Corn – Silage Harvested	91	89	98	98	Pastures	0	3	22	60	15
Cotton – Bolls Opening	53	40	85	89	Soybeans	1	4	13	55	27
Cotton – Defoliated	5	n/a	44	54	Tobacco	0	7	20	62	11
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	59	41	61	72						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	75	68	74	85						
Tobacco – Air-Cured Harvested	90	83	96	97						
Tobacco – Fire-Cured Harvested	78	75	86	88						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“Boll rot showing up in cotton, need drier weather so harvesting can commence!”*

**Mike Dennison, Shelby County**

*“Scattered rain is keeping harvest equipment idled. Corn needs to be finished, early soybeans are ready and we need to be defoliating cotton.”*

**Richard Buntin, Crockett County**

*“Heavy rain throughout the week has saturated the soils and caused minor flooding and added to an already wet month. Most parts of the county have seen 12 plus inches of rain during this month. Farmers are way behind on corn harvest and hay cutting. Some reports of corn and soybeans sprouting in the fields. Even with hopes of a dryer weather pattern next week farmers will need several consecutive days of sun to get back into the fields.”*

**Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County**

*“We had nearly 12 inches of rain last week and our ground water is in the best shape in 3 years. We can't get in the field to harvest but we're proud to see the rain.”*

**Larry Moorehead, Moore County**

*“Corn producers did limited harvest between rain events and where field conditions would support combines. About 80% of the crop is still in the field. The crop finally seems to be drying down below 20% moisture. There is concern over grain sprouting in the ear where ears are still upright and with incomplete shuck cover.”*

**Ed Burns, Franklin County**

*“The old saying of don't ask if you don't want sure has applied the last two weeks. We were dry and wanted rain and for sure we have received our portion. Now we would like a little dry spell to finish up hay harvest, tobacco harvest and seed planting.”*

**Ron Johnson, Overton County**

*“Another week with little or no activity, with many fields having standing water. Apple growers are fighting sooty blotch and some apple cracking on Golden and Fuji varieties.”*

**Kim Frady, Bradley County**

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION**  
**For week ending: September 27, 2009 (with comparisons)**

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending September 27, 2009				Current Week 9/27/09	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	86	56	75	7	2.54	6	48.90	9.99	36.45	11.31
Brownsville_TN	85	57	75	5	0.84	4	42.16	3.32	31.88	6.84
Covington	82	55	73	5	0.85	4	46.47	8.40	34.91	10.52
Dyersburg	86	54	75	6	0.88	3	43.71	6.65	34.95	10.71
Huntingdon_Wate	82	56	74	6	1.00	4	44.09	4.70	31.25	5.62
Jackson_Exp_Stn	86	57	75	6	1.68	7	41.90	3.27	30.78	5.43
Lexington_TN	83	56	73	5	1.19	5	40.43	2.85	30.36	5.97
Martin	83	60	74	7	0.80	5	40.54	1.46	27.90	2.06
Memphis_AG	87	58	75	4	3.24	5	53.39	15.46	39.80	15.36
Milan	85	55	74	8	1.17	6	40.31	-0.06	29.34	2.59
Paris	84	54	73	7	1.69	5	40.89	2.07	27.99	2.68
Savannah_6SW	84	57	74	5	3.56	7	44.13	2.25	32.31	5.89
Selmer	84	56	74	7	5.59	7	51.16	10.02	40.61	14.71
Union_City	83	54	73	7	1.55	6	46.52	8.46	34.61	9.73
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	84	57	74	7	1.21	4	42.70	5.25	29.20	5.40
Cookeville	84	58	73	7	2.77	6	50.79	8.09	36.65	8.98
Crossville_AP	82	58	72	9	3.03	6	53.82	12.15	39.72	13.07
Dickson_AG	84	52	72	5	3.20	7	49.93	9.81	37.16	11.05
Dover_1W	83	57	73	8	0.80	4	48.49	9.52	34.12	9.05
Fayetteville_TN	87	56	73	7	5.80	6	43.58	3.71	31.58	6.99
Jamestown	83	56	71	7	3.33	6	53.59	12.19	39.49	11.93
Kingston_Spring	84	55	73	8	3.42	7	49.66	11.15	37.39	12.85
Lawrenceburg_Fl	84	58	74	8	2.91	6	41.41	-0.01	32.22	6.62
Lewisburg	87	54	73	7	3.26	5	43.57	2.97	34.58	8.56
Linden	83	57	74	8	4.25	7	48.22	7.16	38.41	12.34
Livingston_WLIV	83	58	72	7	2.52	4	53.94	14.24	39.80	13.62
Murfreesboro_5N	86	58	73	7	2.79	7	44.23	4.27	33.05	6.87
Nashville_Metro	84	56	74	5	3.30	6	46.72	11.07	36.38	12.97
Oneida	82	55	70	7	3.38	6	53.19	11.99	41.61	14.28
Portland_TN	82	55	72	6	4.55	7	48.32	9.87	34.22	9.07
Pulaski_Water_P	84	59	73	4	3.45	5	47.85	7.01	37.64	12.19
Shelbyville	86	55	73	5	2.13	5	40.31	-0.48	29.41	3.50
Sparta_TN	87	60	74	9	3.77	6	51.82	10.63	36.70	10.08
Springfield	83	54	73	7	2.48	7	40.90	3.95	31.25	7.17
Springhill	84	58	73	7	4.77	6	46.88	6.29	36.29	10.31
Tullahoma	84	56	72	5	4.45	4	44.93	3.01	33.32	7.37
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	88	63	75	6	8.58	4	43.52	3.43	30.37	6.01
Cleveland_6NNE	87	62	74	8	3.17	3	46.84	5.84	36.53	11.09
Dayton	87	61	74	7	4.37	5	45.64	3.67	35.09	9.14
Erwin_1W	86	60	71	9	3.31	5	42.00	3.99	33.44	6.94
Gatlinburg_2SW	82	61	70	7	4.31	6	51.68	7.86	38.95	9.07
Greeneville	87	59	71	6	2.35	4	35.94	2.80	26.77	4.32
Kingston_AG	86	60	74	9	5.27	4	50.73	7.02	37.58	9.95
Knoxville_AP	86	62	74	7	4.12	5	46.49	10.78	33.60	11.21
Newcomb	83	58	72	9	4.19	5	53.32	12.12	39.70	12.37
Norris_4NE	82	59	71	5	3.56	4	49.25	9.47	35.21	9.32
Tri-City_RGNL_A	86	59	71	6	3.09	5	36.02	4.52	25.88	4.75

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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