



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; September 29, 2008

Week Ending September 28, 2008

DRY WEATHER PERSISTS; HARVEST CONTINUES

The weather this past week across Tennessee was mostly dry allowing for all seven days to be suitable for fieldwork. Producers took advantage of this by making good harvest progress. Virtually all of the corn crop is mature with two-thirds of it harvested. Nearly half of the cotton crop has been defoliated and picking has begun. Soybean development continued to lag behind normal with over half of crop dropping leaves. Harvest of the soybean crop has started on a limited basis. The lack of rainfall continues to have a negative impact on pastures as almost half of the State's acreage was rated in poor-to-very poor condition.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 31 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 27 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 34 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 27 percent adequate. Temperatures were near normal across East Tennessee and above normal across the remainder of the state. Rainfall was well below normal across all of Tennessee.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn – Mature	95	88	100	99	Cotton	1	7	30	52	10
Corn – Harvested for Grain	66	47	96	80	Pastures	16	31	36	16	1
Cotton – Bolls Opening	87	76	100	87	Soybeans	9	18	33	35	5
Cotton – Defoliated	47	23	82	56	Tobacco	2	6	37	46	9
Cotton – Harvested	7	n/a	23	13						
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	63	52	86	70						
Soybeans – Harvested	8	n/a	25	19						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	75	67	91	89						
Tobacco – Dark Air-Cured Harvested	97	93	99	97						
Tobacco – Dark Fire-Cured Harvested	87	81	87	89						

n/a – not available

County Agent Comments

“Harvesting is well under way. Corn yield has been across the board depending on rainfall throughout the growing season. Cooler weather had kept us out of the fields, but with slightly warmer weather the maturing process has moved along. The main two activities have been shelling corn and spraying cotton defoliate. Next week will be the start of cotton picking for some and for others finishing up harvesting corn.”

James Griffin, Lauderdale County

“Grain harvest is in full swing and cotton defoliation is not far behind. Early yields have been a bit lower than expected for cotton but should range from 600-1,200 depending on location of summer rainfall. It will take a significant rain event to supply the moisture needed for winter wheat planting.”

Tracey Sullivan, Haywood County

“We are still waiting on the rain. Pastures are VERY dry!”

Laurie Mobley, Houston County

“Davidson County is currently experiencing a moderate drought condition due to the lack of adequate rainfall over the last month. We are now entering the month of October, which is usually our driest month of the year.”

David Cook, Davidson County

“Continued dry weather is making for excellent harvest conditions but hampering fall planting intentions! Corn harvest is in high gear with yields from 40 to 240 bushels per acre being reported with 80 to 120 being the most common yields reported. Wheat beans are in need of more moisture to help fill pods. Cotton producers continue to apply defoliant, with very limited harvest activity. Pastures are in need of water, most producers grazing fall hay. Most producers reported adequate hay stocks provided they do not have to start feeding this fall.”

Ed Burns, Franklin County

“The drought is showing effects in all aspects of farming now. Second and third hay cutting is 95% complete. Hay was short and thin. Pastures are dried up and some are feeding hay now. Pond and stream water levels are very low. Corn harvest is near completion. We need rain!”

John J. Goddard, Loudon County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: September 28, 2008 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	Week Ending September 28, 2008				Current Week 9/28/08	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN							
Ames_Plantation	88	51	70	3	0.24	1	45.10	5.96	29.42	4.23	
Tri-City_RGNL_A	83	46	65	1	0.41	2	27.26	-4.44	16.34	-4.88	
Brownsville_TN	87	52	72	3	0.00	0	39.72	0.66	23.47	-1.63	
Chattanooga/Lov	85	51	70	2	0.00	0	31.74	-8.60	17.60	-6.84	
Clarksville_Sew	88	49	70	5	0.00	0	34.59	-3.08	21.46	-2.39	
Cookeville	86	45	66	2	0.00	0	32.87	-10.08	19.95	-7.80	
Covington	86	55	70	2	0.00	0	39.99	1.68	24.33	-0.12	
Crossville_AP	80	46	66	3	0.00	0	34.17	-7.72	21.00	-5.69	
Dayton	83	47	67	0	0.00	0	31.51	-10.72	19.21	-6.82	
Dickson_AG	87	48	69	3	0.00	0	37.06	-3.30	22.14	-4.04	
Dover_1W	88	51	70	5	0.00	0	38.65	-0.56	21.29	-3.85	
Dyersburg	88	54	71	2	0.00	0	31.68	-5.60	18.14	-6.16	
Erwin_1W	81	43	63	1	0.77	2	28.84	-9.38	19.05	-7.52	
Huntingdon_Wate	88	51	70	4	0.00	0	37.77	-1.90	21.17	-4.58	
Jackson_Exp_Stn	88	50	71	3	0.00	0	46.44	7.58	27.72	2.29	
Kingston_AG	85	52	69	4	0.00	0	34.17	-9.78	21.31	-6.39	
Knoxville_AP	83	53	68	2	0.08	1	33.40	-2.51	21.18	-1.27	
Lewisburg	85	40	66	0	0.00	0	34.16	-6.69	22.36	-3.75	
Lexington_TN	87	51	70	2	0.00	0	47.64	9.82	30.28	5.81	
Linden	86	44	68	3	0.00	0	44.88	3.60	27.79	1.67	
Martin	89	52	71	4	0.00	0	38.06	-1.26	20.22	-5.69	
Mc_Minnville_Tn	86	50	70	3	0.00	0	26.23	-13.92	16.14	-9.42	
Memphis_AG	89	53	71	1	0.00	0	48.26	10.11	30.96	6.48	
Milan	90	48	70	4	0.00	0	42.08	1.45	24.93	-1.91	
Murfreesboro_5N	89	44	68	2	0.03	1	30.62	-9.60	18.47	-7.81	
Nashville_Metro	88	52	72	4	0.03	1	34.92	-0.93	22.10	-1.36	
Newcomb	84	43	65	3	0.08	1	28.98	-12.45	18.45	-8.96	
Oneida	84	47	66	4	0.05	1	25.04	-16.39	19.31	-8.10	
Portland_TN	85	53	69	4	0.00	0	39.20	0.55	24.89	-0.30	
Pulaski_Water_P	85	47	67	-2	0.00	0	39.51	-1.59	25.44	-0.09	
Savannah_6SW	86	49	69	0	0.00	0	46.91	4.79	29.86	3.38	
Sparta_TN	85	49	68	3	0.00	0	35.07	-6.35	23.05	-3.65	
Springfield	86	48	69	3	0.00	0	38.16	1.00	24.70	0.57	
Springhill	85	47	68	3	0.00	0	34.30	-6.53	22.67	-3.37	
Union_City	88	51	69	4	0.03	1	34.89	-3.41	18.69	-6.26	
Waynesboro_TN	86	42	66	1	0.00	0	38.50	-4.32	24.30	-2.56	

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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