



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; October 5, 2009

Week Ending October 4, 2009

## HARVEST EFFORTS GAIN A LITTLE MOMENTUM

With a short break in rainfall to start the week, Tennessee farmers pushed ahead with their harvest plans. Weekend rainfall once again caused delays. More dry weather is needed, however, as harvest progress for all of the state's major crops is two weeks or more behind schedule. Over 90 percent of the corn crop was mature, setting the stage for rapid shelling. Just over a quarter of the cotton crop has been defoliated compared to a 5-year average of almost triple that amount. Nearly three-fourths of the state's soybeans were dropping leaves with just under a tenth harvested. Tobacco harvest was entering the home stretch with numerous reports of poor harvest and curing conditions. Hay growers were also able to make some progress last week. Other farm activities included weaning cattle.

There were 4 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 24 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 3 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged slightly below to below normal across the entire state last week. Average highs ranged from the upper 60s to mid 70s. Average lows ranged from the mid 40s to the mid 50s. Rainfall averaged above normal across West Tennessee while the rest of the state received near normal amounts.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2008	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Corn – Mature	93	83	98	100	Cattle	0	1	15	63	21
Corn – Harvested	37	16	82	88	Cotton	0	3	26	54	17
Corn – Silage Harvested	96	91	100	100	Hay	0	6	21	58	15
Cotton – Bolls Opening	74	53	95	95	Pastures	0	2	21	63	14
Cotton – Defoliated	28	5	76	75	Soybeans	1	2	14	55	28
Cotton – Harvested	1	n/a	21	24	Tobacco	1	8	20	62	9
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	73	59	78	82						
Soybeans – Harvested	9	n/a	22	30						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	79	75	84	92						
Tobacco – Air-Cured Harvested	96	90	100	99						
Tobacco – Fire-Cured Harvested	86	78	94	94						
Winter Wheat – Seeded	9	n/a	6	8						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“The farmers in Fayette County started to see sunshine on Saturday of last weekend and some got in the field Sunday. This week they have been pushing hard to get the crop out before rain comes later in the week. Yields have been good to great for corn and beans and the cotton that has been harvested has been better than expected. I am hearing of some problems with hard lock bolls in cotton, boll rot, and sprouting of other crops.”*

**Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County**

*“It was a busy, busy, busy week for farmers. As the rains finally subdued for a short time farmers got back into the fields and had 4 full days for haymaking and corn harvest.”*

**Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County**

*“Farmers are rapidly trying to catch up on corn, tobacco, and hay harvest. Pastures are in good to very good condition and cattle are improving. Dairy farms continue to hemorrhage money. Agri-tourism operations which were hard hit in September due to the rains are hoping for a good October. Farm supply stores are reporting increased sales of seed, fertilizer, and supplies compared to the summer months although their revenues are lower than previous fall seasons.”*

**Richard Groce, Maury County**

*“More rain. High humidity is affecting curing/cured tobacco. Silage that was not cut before this rain may have to be harvested as grain.”*

**Allie R. Correll, Wilson County**

*“Four days of dry weather helped producers move forward on hay, silage, and burley harvest. Several reports of tobacco rotting and molding in the barns and some loss in the fields from over ripe tobacco.”*

**Scott Chadwell, Putnam County**

*“Four to six inches of rain last Saturday really slowed down harvest. But we do have the best grazing in pastures that we have had in years and have produced more hay than we have in years.”*

**Mike Heiskell, Claiborne County**

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION**  
**For week ending: October 4, 2009 (with comparisons)**

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending October 4, 2009				Current Week 10/4/09	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	83	46	63	-4	0.00	0	48.90	9.24	36.45	10.56
Brownsville_TN	82	47	64	-4	0.30	1	42.46	2.87	32.18	6.39
Covington	82	47	62	-5	0.55	1	47.02	8.17	35.46	10.29
Dyersburg	82	46	64	-4	1.53	1	45.24	7.47	36.48	11.53
Huntingdon_Wate	80	45	61	-4	0.78	1	44.87	4.57	32.03	5.49
Jackson_Exp_Stn	82	46	63	-4	0.40	1	42.30	2.86	31.18	5.02
Lexington_TN	80	45	62	-6	0.37	1	40.80	2.42	30.73	5.54
Martin	83	44	63	-3	0.41	1	40.95	1.07	28.31	1.67
Memphis_AG	86	49	64	-5	0.10	2	53.49	14.86	39.90	14.76
Milan	82	44	62	-3	1.08	1	41.39	0.18	30.42	2.83
Paris	80	44	61	-4	0.98	1	41.87	2.30	28.97	2.91
Savannah_6SW	82	47	63	-5	0.37	1	44.78	2.11	32.96	5.75
Selmer	81	44	62	-4	0.03	2	51.19	9.22	40.64	13.91
Union_City	80	44	61	-4	0.51	1	47.03	8.16	35.12	9.43
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	76	46	60	-5	1.02	2	43.67	5.50	30.17	5.65
Cookeville	74	43	58	-6	0.21	2	51.00	7.46	36.86	8.35
Crossville_AP	72	41	59	-3	0.08	1	53.90	11.46	39.80	12.38
Dickson_AG	75	42	58	-8	0.91	2	50.84	9.94	38.07	11.18
Dover_1W	78	45	61	-3	1.05	1	49.54	9.77	35.17	9.30
Fayetteville_TN	77	41	61	-4	0.42	2	44.06	3.36	32.06	6.64
Jamestown	71	39	55	-7	0.10	2	53.69	11.46	39.59	11.20
Kingston_Spring	78	45	61	-4	0.39	2	50.05	10.75	37.78	12.45
Lawrenceburg_Fl	79	46	61	-3	0.39	1	41.80	-0.45	32.61	6.18
Lewisburg	80	42	61	-4	0.28	1	43.85	2.38	34.86	7.97
Linden	80	45	61	-3	0.45	1	48.67	6.87	38.86	12.05
Livingston_WLIV	75	43	58	-6	0.26	2	54.20	13.74	40.06	13.12
Murfreesboro_5N	77	43	60	-5	0.26	1	44.49	3.68	33.31	6.28
Nashville_Metro	77	47	63	-4	0.29	1	47.01	10.70	36.67	12.60
Oneida	70	37	55	-6	0.06	2	53.41	11.37	41.83	13.66
Portland_TN	75	46	60	-4	0.80	2	49.12	9.97	35.02	9.17
Pulaski_Water_P	78	46	61	-6	0.42	2	48.27	6.56	38.06	11.74
Shelbyville	77	45	60	-7	0.84	2	41.15	-0.51	30.25	3.47
Sparta_TN	75	40	58	-6	0.03	2	51.85	9.84	36.73	9.29
Springfield	76	44	60	-4	0.59	2	41.48	3.83	31.83	7.05
Springhill	77	42	60	-5	0.26	1	47.17	5.76	36.58	9.78
Tullahoma	74	44	60	-6	0.74	2	45.67	2.88	34.06	7.24
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	80	49	65	-3	0.04	2	43.56	2.64	30.41	5.22
Cleveland_6NNE	78	44	60	-5	0.12	2	47.19	5.32	36.88	10.57
Dayton	76	45	60	-5	0.09	1	45.73	2.91	35.18	8.38
Erwin_1W	77	42	58	-3	0.20	1	42.20	3.48	33.64	6.43
Gatlinburg_2SW	75	41	58	-3	0.00	0	51.68	7.05	38.95	8.26
Greeneville	78	40	57	-7	0.00	0	35.68	1.87	26.51	3.39
Kingston_AG	75	47	61	-2	0.03	1	50.76	6.22	37.61	9.15
Knoxville_AP	77	44	61	-4	0.00	0	46.49	10.12	33.60	10.55
Newcomb	72	43	57	-4	0.93	4	54.25	12.21	40.63	12.46
Norris_4NE	74	42	57	-7	0.01	1	49.26	8.76	35.22	8.61
Tri-City_RGNL_A	76	40	57	-6	0.00	0	36.02	3.84	25.88	4.07

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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The USDA, NASS, Tennessee Field Office gratefully acknowledges contributions to this publication by:  
 National Weather Service and the University of Tennessee's Extension.