



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 5, 2008

LACK OF RAIN HELPS HARVEST; SLOWS FALL SEEDINGS

Dry conditions persisted across the state last week, allowing a complete week open for fieldwork. Corn, cotton, and soybean harvest made excellent progress, but winter wheat and pasture seedings were slowed due to the lack of rainfall. After being a week behind, corn harvest at week's end lagged only slightly behind the 5-year average. Cotton farmers also took advantage of this past week's dry weather with defoliation and harvest underway. Soybean harvest was almost a fourth completed by week's end, with the crop being rated in mostly fair-to-good condition. Fall seeded crops, pastures and hay fields are all suffering from the lack of rainfall. Pastures continued to be rated in mostly poor condition.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 39 percent very short, 45 percent short, and 16 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 40 percent very short, 41 percent short, and 19 percent adequate. Temperatures for the week were above normal despite the mid-week cool down. 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 – Harvested for Grain	85	66	98	90	Cattle	1	11	38	40	10
Cotton – Bolls Opening	96	87	100	93	Cotton	1	7	30	53	9
Cotton – Defoliated	81	47	92	75	Hay	7	19	46	25	3
Cotton – Harvested	23	7	40	24	Pastures	22	35	31	12	0
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	80	63	90	80	Soybeans	9	17	33	35	6
Soybeans – Harvested	24	8	38	30						
Winter Wheat – Seeded	6	4	11	9						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	85	75	94	94						
Tobacco – Dark Fire-Cured Harvested	95	87	94	94						

County Agent Comments

“It continues to be extremely dry. Corn and soybean harvest progressing really well this week. Saw cotton modules sitting in field today. Cotton looking like it is going to turn out better than first thought. No reports on cotton yields as of this date.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Producers are quickly completing corn harvest and soybean harvest is picking up speed every day. Soybean yields are running in the 25 - 35 bushel range. Dry soil moisture conditions have put wheat seeding on hold as producers wait for much needed precipitation. Seeding of pasture and hay fields have also not gotten out of the gate due to excessively dry soil conditions.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Extremely dry conditions have pastures in decline. Many producers are feeding hay. Late soybeans that once looked good are losing yield potential. Water in small ponds and streams is getting low, reminding producers of the drought in 200. Producers are waiting for moisture before planting wheat”.

Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County

“Pastures drying up fast now. No significant rainfall for Giles County in over a month. Corn yields have been fair to good. Soybean yields so far are lower than average. Corn yields under irrigation are being reported at 100 to 125 bushel, higher than the corn just outside of irrigation area.”

Kevin Rose, Giles County

“Dry weather continues to persist, following the driest September on record. Corn harvest is winding down, dry conditions and low humidity have allowed combines to run as early and late in the day as producers wish. Soybeans producers are shifting to beans. The lack of rain has dashed hopes of double crop bean yields. Cotton harvest efforts stepped up this week with about 90% of the bolls open and 60% of the crop defoliated. Pastures and hay are slowly drying up due to lack of water. The lack of rain is hampering fall fescue growth, and forcing producers to begin feeding hay. Fall hay harvest has been very short. The lack of water is also affecting pond levels and stream flow.”

Ed Burns, Franklin

“We need a significant rain event to supply the moisture needed for winter wheat planting. Corn harvest is almost completed with yields ranging from poor to fair. Wheat beans need moisture soon to fill pods. Apples are numerous but small in size due to dry weather with many quality problems being reported by orchards.”

Mannie Bedwell, Hamblen County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: October 5, 2008 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	Week Ending October 5, 2008				Current Week 10/5/08	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	43	63	-3	0.00	0	45.10	5.25	29.42	3.52	
Tri-City_RGNL_A	78	36	58	-4	0.02	1	27.28	-5.08	16.36	-5.52	
Brownsville_TN	87	44	65	-2	0.00	0	39.72	-0.05	23.47	-2.34	
Chattanooga/Lov	86	47	67	2	0.00	0	31.74	-9.39	17.60	-7.63	
Clarksville_Sew	86	40	63	-2	0.02	2	34.61	-3.76	21.48	-3.07	
Cookeville	82	38	60	-4	0.00	0	32.87	-10.89	19.95	-8.61	
Covington	86	43	63	-3	0.00	0	39.99	0.94	24.33	-0.86	
Crossville_AP	80	38	60	-1	0.00	0	34.17	-8.47	21.00	-6.44	
Dayton	83	41	63	-3	0.00	0	31.51	-11.53	19.21	-7.63	
Dickson_AG	87	40	63	-2	0.00	0	37.06	-4.04	22.14	-4.78	
Dover_1W	86	42	63	0	0.00	0	38.65	-1.34	21.29	-4.63	
Dyersburg	88	43	65	-2	0.00	0	31.68	-6.27	18.14	-6.83	
Erwin_1W	78	38	59	-1	0.16	1	29.00	-9.91	19.21	-8.05	
Huntingdon_Wate	88	41	63	-2	0.00	0	37.77	-2.77	21.17	-5.45	
Jackson_Exp_Stn	87	41	64	-2	0.00	0	46.44	6.80	27.72	1.51	
Kingston_AG	83	44	63	2	0.00	0	34.17	-10.59	21.31	-7.20	
Knoxville_AP	83	42	63	-1	0.00	0	33.40	-3.15	21.18	-1.91	
Lewisburg	86	36	60	-3	0.00	0	34.16	-7.54	22.36	-4.60	
Lexington_TN	88	42	64	-2	0.00	0	47.64	9.04	30.28	5.03	
Linden	87	38	62	-2	0.00	0	44.64	2.64	27.55	0.71	
Martin	90	41	63	-2	0.00	0	38.06	-2.04	20.22	-6.47	
Mc_Minnville_Tn	84	43	63	-1	0.00	0	25.83	-15.12	15.74	-10.62	
Memphis_AG	87	45	65	-4	0.00	0	48.26	9.45	30.96	5.82	
Milan	89	39	63	-2	0.00	0	42.08	0.65	24.93	-2.71	
Murfreesboro_5N	87	37	61	-3	0.00	0	30.62	-10.41	18.47	-8.62	
Nashville_Metro	86	43	65	-1	0.00	0	34.92	-1.55	22.10	-1.98	
Newcomb	79	35	58	-1	0.00	0	28.98	-13.29	18.45	-9.80	
Oneida	81	38	59	0	0.04	1	25.08	-17.19	19.35	-8.90	
Portland_TN	85	43	63	1	0.00	0	39.20	-0.15	24.89	-1.00	
Pulaski_Water_P	86	41	62	-4	0.00	0	39.51	-2.44	25.44	-0.94	
Savannah_6SW	87	43	63	-4	0.00	0	46.84	3.97	29.79	2.56	
Sparta_TN	86	36	62	-1	0.00	0	35.07	-7.15	23.05	-4.45	
Springfield	85	39	61	-3	0.00	0	38.16	0.32	24.70	-0.11	
Springhill	85	38	61	-2	0.00	0	34.30	-7.33	22.67	-4.17	
Union_City	87	38	61	-3	0.00	0	34.89	-4.20	18.69	-7.05	
Waynesboro_TN	87	43	62	0	0.00	0	38.50	-5.09	24.30	-3.33	

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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