



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 11, 2009

WET WEATHER PERSISTS

The familiar refrain for the Volunteer State this fall has been weekly soaking rains that limited fieldwork. After a short break in the rain a week earlier, precipitation returned in abundance across the entire state, hindering already delayed harvest efforts. Soft, muddy fields were reported in nearly all areas of the state. As a result, harvest for all major row crops remained well behind the normal pace. Nearly a third of the cotton crop was defoliated last week, but harvest progress is the slowest since records began in 1969. Burley growers have begun stripping on a limited basis with reports of various curing problems. Just over a tenth of the state's winter wheat crop has been seeded, slightly behind the normal pace. Other farm activities included cutting and baling hay.

There were 3 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 64 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees below normal over western and middle sections of the state and were 2 to 3 degrees above normal elsewhere. Rainfall averaged above normal across the entire state.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2008	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Mature	97	93	100	100	Cotton	0	5	33	50	12
Corn – Harvested	54	37	90	94	Pastures	0	2	19	64	15
Cotton – Bolls Opening	87	74	97	99						
Cotton – Defoliated	58	28	91	89						
Cotton – Harvested	2	1	39	41						
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	83	73	89	91						
Soybeans – Harvested	17	9	33	43						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	85	79	88	96						
Tobacco – Burley Stripped	9	n/a	8	18						
Tobacco – Fire-Cured Harvested	90	86	98	98						
Winter Wheat – Seeded	13	9	10	15						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Corn and bean harvest continues to be slowed by rain. Cotton harvest is waiting on defoliation results. A very few scattered wheat acres have been planted. Continued rainy weather will not be good for either harvest or wheat planting. Corn and soybean yields are reported to be good.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Corn and soybean harvest is very slow due to wet days and slow drying of corn grains. The moisture continues to stay in the grain and the corn is not drying to harvest. Farmers have switched to harvesting soybeans first that are group 3 and 4 varieties. Yields are tremendous: 180 to over 200 bu. per acre for corn and 55 bu. plus for soybeans. Reminds me of 1979 when we had bumper crops and had to wait to next spring to get crops out in west Tenn. Hope this is not true for 2009.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“Combines are running in the mud, trying to finish harvesting corn so bean harvest can begin. Test plots harvested to date are averaging above 225 bu. per acre.”

John Bartee, Montgomery County

“Soil-borne fungal diseases have become an issue with turnip greens due to the excessive wet soil. Anthracnose diseases have shown up with some late-season tomato crops.”

David Cook, Davidson County

“Corn and soybean farmers are harvesting around periodic rains in fields that will hold a combine. Some wheat has been drilled in pastures but not much for grain. Those cutting hay late are having a hard time entering fields and drying the hay. Pastures are in excellent condition and for many producers hay feeding will come later this year than in past years.”

Matt Webb, Marion County

“Some corn has been combined. Most corn silage has been harvested. Beans are ready to combine if weather would cooperate. Lots of standing and mowed hay needs dry days to finish up harvest.”

John Goddard, Loudon County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: October 11, 2009 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending October 11, 2009				Current Week 10/11/09	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	49	61	-2	3.21	4	52.11	11.81	39.66	13.13
Brownsville_TN	84	48	60	-5	2.67	4	45.13	4.90	34.85	8.42
Covington	83	45	59	-5	2.35	3	49.37	9.87	37.81	11.99
Dyersburg	84	45	60	-5	1.86	4	47.1	8.70	38.34	12.76
Huntingdon_Wate	83	45	59	-4	2.65	4	47.52	6.43	34.68	7.35
Jackson_Exp_Stn	86	49	60	-3	1.91	4	44.21	4.06	33.09	6.22
Lexington_TN	84	48	60	-4	1.52	5	42.32	3.21	32.25	6.33
Martin	85	40	57	-5	2.33	4	43.22	2.57	30.58	3.17
Memphis_AG	85	50	61	-5	2.33	3	55.82	16.56	42.23	16.46
Milan	86	43	59	-4	2.11	4	43.5	1.57	32.53	4.22
Paris	83	44	59	-2	1.59	3	42.94	2.67	30.04	3.28
Savannah_6SW	86	48	62	-3	1.68	4	46.31	2.94	34.49	6.58
Selmer	85	49	64	3	2.52	5	53.71	11.03	43.16	15.72
Union_City	83	38	57	-5	2.02	4	49.05	9.41	37.14	10.68
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	83	42	60	-2	2.28	4	45.95	7.10	32.45	7.25
Cookeville	82	44	59	-2	1.68	4	52.68	8.40	38.54	9.29
Crossville_AP	80	44	61	3	1.79	6	55.69	12.55	41.59	13.47
Dickson_AG	84	43	61	-2	1.61	4	52.45	10.88	39.68	12.12
Dover_1W	81	43	58	-3	2.34	4	51.88	11.39	37.51	10.92
Fayetteville_TN	85	50	64	4	2.87	5	46.93	5.46	34.93	8.74
Jamestown	81	41	57	-2	1.71	3	55.4	12.41	41.30	12.15
Kingston_Spring	84	43	60	-1	1.91	4	51.96	11.96	39.69	13.66
Lawrenceburg_Fl	84	50	62	1	2.33	3	44.13	1.11	34.94	7.74
Lewisburg	84	48	61	0	2.07	4	45.92	3.61	36.93	9.20
Linden	86	45	61	0	2.32	4	50.99	8.50	41.18	13.68
Livingston_WLIV	81	43	58	-3	1.47	4	55.67	14.52	41.53	13.90
Murfreesboro_5N	85	44	60	-2	1.59	4	46.08	4.52	34.90	7.12
Nashville_Metro	85	44	62	-2	1.52	3	48.53	11.66	38.19	13.56
Oneida	78	41	57	0	2.01	4	55.42	12.54	43.84	14.83
Portland_TN	80	44	59	-3	1.64	4	50.76	10.96	36.66	10.16
Pulaski_Water_P	84	52	62	-3	2.65	5	50.92	8.42	40.71	13.60
Shelbyville	84	49	63	0	1.36	4	42.51	0.02	31.61	4.00
Sparta_TN	84	44	61	1	2.51	5	54.36	11.58	39.24	11.03
Springfield	80	44	58	-3	1.79	5	43.27	4.99	33.62	8.21
Springhill	84	44	59	-2	1.73	3	48.9	6.72	38.31	10.74
Tullahoma	82	49	62	-1	1.11	5	46.78	3.15	35.17	7.51
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	83	53	66	3	3.82	4	47.38	5.75	34.23	8.33
Cleveland_6NNE	83	47	65	5	1.12	5	48.31	5.66	38.00	10.91
Dayton	81	46	59	-4	1.82	4	47.55	3.98	37.00	9.45
Erwin_1W	80	42	60	4	1.45	5	43.65	4.29	35.09	7.24
Gatlinburg_2SW	83	41	60	3	1.62	6	53.3	7.96	40.57	9.17
Greeneville	80	40	60	1	1.40	4	37.08	2.65	27.91	4.17
Kingston_AG	81	47	62	3	2.02	4	52.78	7.47	39.63	10.40
Knoxville_AP	84	47	64	4	1.30	4	47.79	10.79	34.90	11.22
Newcomb	81	43	59	2	1.82	5	56.07	13.19	42.45	13.44
Norris_4NE	76	43	59	-2	1.86	4	51.12	9.94	37.08	9.79
Tri-City_RGNL_A	84	41	62	4	0.74	4	36.76	3.97	26.62	4.20

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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