



USDA – National
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Service, Tennessee
Field Office

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



Cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 15, 2006

COTTON AND SOYBEAN HARVEST IN FULL SWING

Cotton and soybean harvest continued their rapid advance last week, as progress for both crops remained ahead of the normal pace. Cotton defoliation was nearly complete, with farmers defoliating some fields a little early in anticipation of the first frost. As of Friday, nearly 80 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Soybean producers have passed the halfway point with their harvest at a rate nearly two full weeks ahead of normal. Also, virtually all of the State’s acreage was dropping leaves by week’s end. Corn for grain harvest was near completion with only 4 percent remaining unharvested. Corn growers in a few areas are awaiting a reduction in moisture content in later planted corn. Yields for corn, cotton, and soybeans have been reported as highly variable. In addition to harvesting, producers were busy planting wheat, harvesting hay, and stripping tobacco.

There were six days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 14 percent very short, 29 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 16 percent very short, 28 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Temperatures and rainfall averaged below normal across the State last week.

CROP PROGRESS: Through October 15, 2006					CONDITION: On October 13, 2006					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Corn Harvested for Grain	96	94	93	94	Cotton	2	2	18	49	29
Cotton Defoliated	95	84	91	88	Pasture	13	18	33	32	4
Cotton Harvested	46	30	42	40	Soybeans	3	7	19	43	28
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	99	92	97	88						
Soybeans Harvested	55	38	56	35						
Winter Wheat Seeded	25	13	25	22						
Winter Wheat Emerged	4	n/a	5	2						
Burley Tobacco Stripped	20	13	31	27						

n/a=not available

County Agent Comments

“In anticipation of freezing temperatures overnight Thursday, some cotton was defoliated prematurely in order to get the boll opener out prior to the freeze.”

Richard Buntin, Crockett County

“We could still use some rain to germinate fall pasture sowing and wheat, but making good progress harvesting crops. We still have some late planted soybeans that could get hurt if it frosts this weekend.”

Rick Ritter, Perry County

“We had our first killing frost the morning of Friday, October 13. Harvest is coming along well because of the dry weather. We are just starting to plant our wheat. Hay and pasture is as short as I have seen it in a while. Corn and bean yields are very low this fall.”

Larry Moorehead, Moore County

“Pastures are looking up. Good drying conditions in the afternoon along with soils that are not too wet had facilitated a fast soybean harvest.”

Dean Northcutt, Coffee County

“Predicted scattered frost this weekend has tomato producers scrambling to strip the vines. Tobacco producers who have stalks in the field were also scrambling to get them in the barns. Lots of hay still down and taking a long time to cure, but quality is good and this late cutting will definitely help hay supplies.”

Mannie Bedwell, Hamblen County

“Producers took advantage of good drying weather to make good progress toward completion of late hay harvest. Dry weather also provided a good opportunity for corn and soybean harvest. The area had its first frost of the season on Friday morning.”

Bob Sliger, Monroe County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: October 15, 2006 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F Since April 1	
	Week Ending October 15, 2006				Current Week 10/15/06	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal	Total	DFN
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	83	30	57	-5	0.01	1	36.09	-4.57	2780	356
Tri-City_RGNL_A	79	26	54	-4	0.33	1	33.62	0.51	1791	129
Brownsville_TN	80	32	58	-5	0.00	0	35.68	-4.91	2855	711
Chattanooga/Lov	82	34	60	-2	0.08	1	34.26	-7.76	2815	474
Clarksville_Sew	80	33	56	-4	0.00	0	35.81	-3.43	2540	370
Cookeville	80	29	54	-6	0.12	3	41.30	-3.38	2053	712
Covington	78	34	57	-6	0.00	0	40.63	0.80	2578	109
Crossville_AP	76	28	54	-4	0.24	3	37.17	-6.37	1847	326
Dayton	78	31	56	-5	0.20	2	33.48	-10.49	2215	157
Dickson_AG	81	26	54	-7	0.05	1	43.06	1.13	2141	-110
Dover_1W	77	32	54	-6	0.16	2	37.33	-3.56	2310	380
Dyersburg	81	34	59	-5	0.01	1	37.56	-1.20	2807	185
Erwin_1W	77	28	55	-2	0.22	3	42.49	2.77	1758	-210
Huntingdon_Wate	78	33	56	-5	0.00	0	40.32	-1.21	2484	438
Jackson_Exp_Stn	82	29	57	-5	0.00	0	35.79	-4.76	2703	334
Kingston_AG	79	33	57	-2	0.11	1	44.21	-1.54	2233	457
Knoxville_AP	79	32	57	-3	0.04	2	38.74	1.38	2460	453
Lewisburg	81	29	55	-5	0.00	0	36.58	-6.21	2351	336
Lexington_TN	80	30	56	-6	0.00	0	42.92	3.41	2428	996
Linden	81	29	55	-5	0.04	1	39.68	-3.19	2386	351
Martin	80	32	56	-6	0.00	0	45.55	4.46	2511	255
Mc_Minnville_Tn	79	28	56	-5	0.03	1	40.51	-1.40	2384	-135
Memphis_AG	83	33	58	-7	0.01	1	34.91	-4.71	3020	77
Milan	81	29	55	-6	0.01	1	39.27	-3.04	2524	321
Murfreesboro_5N	80	28	55	-6	0.01	1	41.44	-0.52	2417	-103
Nashville_Metro	83	33	59	-3	0.26	2	35.54	-1.65	2811	421
Newcomb	77	28	54	-2	0.75	2	40.49	-2.87	1825	399
Oneida	78	29	54	-2	0.42	2	43.41	0.05	1841	-302
Portland_TN	79	33	55	-4	0.42	2	35.51	-4.65	2255	286
Pulaski_Water_P	81	30	56	-8	0.01	1	38.28	-4.66	2461	94
Savannah_6SW	84	32	58	-6	0.01	1	38.11	-5.65	2720	620
Sparta_TN	81	27	56	-3	0.06	2	41.69	-1.52	2317	616
Springfield	82	28	54	-5	0.20	2	40.06	1.42	2123	153
Springhill	84	27	57	-3	0.10	2	35.12	-7.52	2431	427
Union_City	80	31	55	-5	0.07	1	47.64	7.56	2326	147
Waynesboro_TN	81	31	57	-2	0.00	0	39.04	-5.53	2235	-28

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