



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; October 19, 2009

Week Ending October 18, 2009

ANOTHER WET WEEK ADDS TO FARMERS' WOES

Last week's weather began just as the previous week's ended, with soaking rainfall occurring across the entire state. High pressure moved in at the end of the week and brought cold, drier weather along with it. The weather continued to hamper harvest efforts for all crops. With minimal progress achieved over the past two weeks, soybean and corn harvests are 2 to 3 weeks behind normal while cotton harvest trails nearly a full a month behind the normal pace. Farmers across the state expressed frustration with declining grain quality due to wet field conditions. Nearly three-fourths of the state's cotton has been defoliated compared to 97 percent a year ago. Burley growers have harvested nearly 90 percent of the crop, but stripping efforts lag behind the normal pace by a few days. Quality remains a problem. Pastures were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

There were 2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 41 percent adequate, and 59 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. Temperatures across the state last week averaged several degrees below normal. 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 – Harvested	64	54	94	97	Cotton	1	6	40	44	9
Cotton – Bolls Opening	93	87	99	99	Pastures	0	2	20	63	15
Cotton – Defoliated	74	58	97	95						
Cotton – Harvested	3	2	57	54						
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	89	83	95	96						
Soybeans – Harvested	22	17	44	54						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	89	85	94	99						
Tobacco – Burley Stripped	19	9	15	28						
Tobacco – Fire-Cured Harvested	91	90	100	100						
Winter Wheat – Seeded	16	13	19	26						

County Agent Comments

“The quality of mature crops ready for harvest is deteriorating rapidly because of continuing wet conditions.”

Mike Dennison, Shelby County

“The farmers in Fayette County were able to operate in the field maybe one day this week due to more rain that fell. Corn and bean harvest took place on a very limited amount of ground. Yields still look ok but problems will occur and are happening with all the rain. It has just put the farmers behind.”

Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County

“As is the case in most other counties, we are soaked and farmers are worried about getting soybeans and corn harvested. Some of the late dark-fired tobacco is literally falling apart in the field as conditions remain too wet for harvest.”

Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County

“Many questions concerning toxicity of frost damaged Johnson grass and options for harvesting for hay. Weather conditions have prevented late hay harvest.”

David K. Glover, Smith County

“Rain, rain, rain. Fall harvest slipping behind, but few complaints yet.”

J. Dale Beaty, Warren County

“We are getting a tremendous amount of moisture for this to be October. It is delaying tobacco harvest, corn and soybean harvest as well as winter wheat planting. We are somewhere around 11 inches above normal which is excellent especially with regards to the last two growing seasons. We need the moisture.”

Jonathan Rhea, Jefferson County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: October 18, 2009 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending October 18, 2009				Current Week 10/18/09	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	69	33	57	-5	1.71	5	53.82	12.89	41.37	14.21
Brownsville_TN	71	34	55	-7	1.28	2	46.41	5.55	36.13	9.07
Covington	69	34	54	-8	1.59	3	50.96	10.88	39.40	13.00
Dyersburg	71	34	54	-8	1.04	2	48.14	9.11	39.38	13.17
Huntingdon_Wate	70	34	53	-6	1.24	3	48.76	6.91	35.92	7.83
Jackson_Exp_Stn	71	33	55	-6	1.49	6	45.70	4.85	34.58	7.01
Lexington_TN	68	33	54	-7	1.04	4	43.36	3.55	33.29	6.67
Martin	74	33	53	-8	1.75	4	44.97	3.55	32.33	4.15
Memphis_AG	72	34	57	-8	1.55	6	57.37	17.48	43.78	17.38
Milan	73	31	55	-5	0.81	2	44.31	1.73	33.34	4.38
Paris	72	33	52	-7	1.61	4	44.55	3.58	31.65	4.19
Savannah_6SW	71	32	55	-7	1.34	5	47.65	3.59	35.83	7.23
Selmer	68	34	56	-4	1.26	4	54.97	11.61	44.42	16.30
Union_City	71	33	52	-8	1.45	4	50.50	10.07	38.59	11.34
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	71	35	52	-7	2.11	4	48.06	8.52	34.56	8.67
Cookeville	70	31	54	-5	2.63	7	55.31	10.33	41.17	11.22
Crossville_AP	68	31	54	-2	1.94	6	57.63	13.79	43.53	14.71
Dickson_AG	68	30	53	-7	1.58	3	53.17	10.97	40.40	12.21
Dover_1W	70	33	51	-7	1.77	6	53.65	12.46	39.28	11.99
Fayetteville_TN	71	35	57	-2	1.40	5	48.33	6.09	36.33	9.37
Jamestown	69	30	52	-4	2.31	7	57.71	14.02	43.61	13.76
Kingston_Spring	71	32	54	-4	1.53	5	53.49	12.79	41.22	14.49
Lawrenceburg_Fl	69	35	56	-2	1.45	5	48.82	5.04	39.63	11.67
Lewisburg	71	32	56	-3	1.35	5	47.27	4.12	38.28	9.71
Linden	67	34	55	-4	1.62	5	52.61	9.44	42.80	14.62
Livingston_WLIV	66	32	53	-6	1.88	4	57.55	15.77	43.41	15.15
Murfreesboro_5N	70	32	55	-4	1.74	6	47.82	5.56	36.64	8.16
Nashville_Metro	70	35	55	-6	1.70	4	50.23	12.80	39.89	14.70
Oneida	64	32	52	-3	3.34	6	58.76	15.04	47.18	17.33
Portland_TN	70	33	51	-7	2.36	4	53.12	12.67	39.02	11.87
Pulaski_Water_P	70	37	58	-4	1.43	7	52.35	9.08	42.14	14.26
Shelbyville	70	32	54	-6	1.24	6	43.75	0.43	32.85	4.41
Sparta_TN	70	31	56	-3	2.10	5	56.46	12.92	41.34	12.37
Springfield	70	33	53	-5	0.97	7	44.24	5.33	34.59	8.55
Springhill	71	31	54	-5	1.61	5	50.51	7.51	39.92	11.53
Tullahoma	68	33	54	-7	1.39	6	48.17	3.70	36.56	8.06
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	74	38	59	-2	1.19	5	48.57	6.27	35.42	8.85
Cleveland_6NNE	73	36	57	-2	1.28	5	50.20	6.80	39.89	12.05
Dayton	73	36	57	-3	1.25	5	48.80	4.53	38.25	10.00
Erwin_1W	70	38	55	0	1.53	6	45.27	5.28	36.71	8.23
Gatlinburg_2SW	74	38	55	-2	1.87	6	55.17	9.17	42.44	10.38
Greeneville	72	33	54	-3	1.31	7	38.29	3.30	29.12	4.82
Kingston_AG	74	36	57	0	2.25	5	55.03	8.95	41.88	11.88
Knoxville_AP	74	37	57	-2	1.66	4	49.45	11.82	36.56	12.25
Newcomb	66	32	52	-3	1.80	5	57.87	14.15	44.25	14.40
Norris_4NE	72	34	54	-4	2.23	7	53.35	11.48	39.31	11.33
Tri-City_RGNL_A	71	37	54	-4	1.15	5	37.91	4.56	27.77	4.79

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.