

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending March 30, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 30, 2003**. Corn planting made good progress last week as farmers were able to work around the scattered showers. Soil moisture was rated 57 percent adequate and 43 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	27	10	22	37	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	2	0	0	14					
Wheat	Jointing	58	41	41	59	1	6	47	43	3
Watermelons	Planted	22	7	8	15	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						3	7	29	51	10
Pasture						3	17	34	39	7
						Short		Adequate		Surplus
Hay Supply						18		74		8
Feed Grain						13		83		4

### County Agent Comments

“Scattered rains throughout the county allowed some producers to plant corn and early soybeans. Cattle are chasing the newly emerged grass and have just about quit feeding on hay.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Most of the wheat that was damaged to extreme moisture conditions has been burnt down. Corn planting continued through last week.”

— Guy Wilson, Washington

“The ground is just now drying up enough to get the tractors rolling and break up some fields. Rye grass is finally growing due to warm temperatures and drier soils. It has been a rough winter, but the cattle are looking better.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Warmer weather last week really brought the ryegrass out. Pastures are finally growing as one would expect. Some corn was planted last week. If rain holds off, we should see most of our corn planted this week along with some cotton. A few cattlemen are looking for hay, but green pastures are limiting hay intake.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“There has been no rain in the area this week and farmers have been able to get into the fields to plant corn, watermelon and other crops. Pastures are improving with clover, and grasses are greening up for grazing. Very few farmers are using hay at this time.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Producers are finally able to start planting corn. Many pastures are being top-dressed with nitrogen to improve quality and growth. Cattle are beginning to flesh out more since there is more grass for grazing.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“The Northwest part of Quitman County got about 1 to 1 1/4 inches of rain Tuesday night. The southeast portion got very little rain and some of these producers are back in the field today. Very little corn has been planted in our area.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Farmers spent the week fertilizing pastures and planting corn where possible.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Rain over the weekend was light. Growers will be able to get in the field and plant corn, soybeans and rice this week if the weather forecast holds up.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Some areas in the county were dry enough for fieldwork to eliminate some of the ruts in fields. Corn planting is expected to begin as soon as the weather permits.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We have done more this week than we have all spring! Corn is going in, fertilizer is going on, and soybeans are headed to the farm headquarters. Rain over the weekend has slowed us some, but we should be back in the fields by Tuesday.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

“No fieldwork yet, but the best opportunity may be this week. Pastures are improving very well. Cattle are still on hay for most producers. Hay is very short for most cattlemen, but more than needed for others.”

— Dalton G Garner, Prentiss

“Warm weather is giving way to cooler nights and soil drying will slow, somewhat. The north end of the county did not receive as much rain as the south end. Planting and land preparation have been ongoing.”

— Tommy Baird Sunflower

“Rain continues to put a halt to corn planting and other field activities. All row crops could be late this year due to wet and cool weather conditions.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“I have heard that on the higher land located in the northeast part of the county, the farmers are beginning to plant in no-till fields.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Warm weather stimulated pecan and fruit budding this week. Winter weeds are growing rapidly as well. Soil conditions are still too wet for corn and soybean fieldwork. Some pasture weed control and fertilization is going on. We need continued warm weather and wind to dry our soils out for fieldwork.”

— Glen Williams, Oktibbeha

“Drier weather has allowed for corn planting to begin. Ryegrass fields have been slow to respond to fertilizer due to the long cold, wet winter, dairy and beef producers have experienced. Grazing conditions for cattle producers may be short this year, but the dry weather could give them an excellent opportunity to put up some good quality hay.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Early maturing ryegrass is being harvested for bale silage. Ground preparation for corn planting is in full swing. Fertilizer trucks are running full speed making lime and nitrogen topdress applications on pastures and hay fields. Hay supplies are beginning to run short.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Frost has hit and there seems to be some damage on fruit and vegetable crops.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Excessive rains have held off over the past two weeks allowing tillage operations to begin in some fields. Ryegrass pastures are starting to grow faster than the cattle can consume it for the first time this season. Cattle are starting to improve with this abundance of ryegrass.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

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Additional comments appear on the Internet Website at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cropweat.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
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**Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Elizabeth Mons**  
**Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Mississippi Agricultural**  
**Statistics Service**  
**Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician**

**Weather Summary from March 24, 2003 to March 30, 2003 for Mississippi**

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				56		0.88 E	-0.52	2	2.54E				
Cleveland	76	38	59	56	+3	0.89	-0.37	2	2.67				
Tunica	77	35	59	56	+3	1.33	-0.00	2	3.69	68	46	58	0.24
Extreme/Average	77	35	59	57	+2	1.03	-0.23	2	2.61	68	46	58	0.24
2. North-Central													
Batesville	78	39	62	56	+6	0.63	-0.70	2	2.72				
Calhoun City	79	35	59	56	+3	0.79	-0.54	2	2.52				
Independence	77	35	56	55	+1	1.78	+0.59	2	2.89				
Oxford	80	35	59	55	+4	1.09	-0.24	2	2.82				
Extreme/Average	80	35	59	56	+3	1.07	-0.23	2	2.74				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	76	37	57	55	+2	1.20	-0.19	2	3.89				
Corinth City				57		0.80	-0.54	2	2.97				
Iuka	78	33	54	52	+2	1.14	-0.32	2	3.60				
Ripley				54		0.84	-0.55	2	3.03				
Tupelo						1.05		2	3.08				
Extreme/Average	78	33	56	56	0	1.01	-0.39	2	3.31				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	81	44	66	59	+7	0.90	-0.57	2	3.00	75	56	67	
Rolling Fork	81	37	61	58	+3	0.32	-1.09	2	2.08	79	55	67	
Stoneville	78	37	60	58	+2	0.60	-0.73	2	2.86	74	52	63	
Yazoo City	80	38	58	60	-2	0.33	-1.21	2	1.30				
Extreme/Average	81	37	62	59	+3	0.61	-0.72	2	2.65	79	52	66	
5. Central													
Canton	81	36	58	60	-2	0.49	-0.91	3	3.12				
Carthage	82	36	59	59	0	0.57	-0.83	3	2.88				
Lexington	79	34	59	58	+1	0.34	-1.06	2	1.97				
Eupora	81	34	58	57	+1	0.66	-0.85	2	3.18				
Extreme/Average	82	34	58	59	-1	0.52	-0.88	3	2.79				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	81	42	59	57	+2	0.46	-0.94	3	4.02				
Houston	78	34	59	56	+3	0.61	-0.84	2	2.92				
Louisville	81	37	60	57	+3	0.72	-0.78	2	4.07				
State University	80	37	60	57	+3	0.41	-0.99	2	3.91	67	55	62	0.14
Extreme/Average	81	34	59	58	+1	0.55	-0.90	2	3.73	67	55	62	0.14
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	80	38	60	61	-1	0.14	-1.26	2	3.74	76	52	64	
Natchez	77	30	57	62	-5	1.77	+0.22	4	6.37				
Oakley	81	45	62	59	+3	0.23	-1.28	2	3.13	73	60	66	
Vicksburg	79	40	60			0.37		3	2.59				
Extreme/Average	81	30	59	61	-2	0.63	-0.76	3	3.96	76	52	65	
8. South-Central													
Collins	82	39	61	60	+1	0.06	-1.40	2	3.39				
Columbia	83	39	62	61	+1	0.03	-1.44	1	3.61				
Tylertown	83	37	63	62	+1	0.03	-1.37	1	3.83				
Extreme/Average	83	37	62	61	+1	0.04	-1.33	1	3.61				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.43		2	5.99				
Hattiesburg	82	38	61	61	0	0.00	-1.44	0	3.82				
Laurel	84	40	62	60	+2	0.10	-1.29	2	3.09				
Newton	82	36	58	58	0	0.21	-1.27	2	4.19	71	49	61	0.14
Extreme/Average	85	36	61	60	+1	0.19	-1.21	2	4.27	71	49	61	0.14
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	82	45	65	63	+2	0.50	-1.00	2	2.34				
Gulfport	75	40	62	64	-2	0.12	-1.18	1	4.00				
Pascagoula				61		0.00	-1.31	0	4.20				
Poplarville	89	37	63	62	+1	0.61	-0.81	3	3.87	78	52	66	0.20
Waveland	79	40	63	61	+2	0.12	-1.42	2	3.35				
Extreme/Average	89	37	63	63	0	0.27	-0.96	2	3.55	78	52	66	0.20
State	89	30	60	59	+1	0.57	-0.79	2	3.38	79	46	63	0.17

DFN = Departure from Normal.