

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending June 18, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, June 18, 2006**. Most areas across the state received scattered showers that put an end to the dry spell. Many farm operations still need more rain and the success level of several row crops is going to depend upon whether or not there is more rainfall soon. Livestock conditions are decreasing, as pastures are in mostly poor to very poor conditions. Soil moisture was rated 52 percent very short, 29 percent short, and 19 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	80	70	49	60	9	14	25	43	9
	Dough	10	--	0	8					
Cotton	Emerged	100	99	99	99	3	11	24	54	8
	Squaring	60	40	40	45					
	Setting Bolls	4	--	0	2					
Peanuts	Planted	100	100	--	--	1	1	23	38	37
	Pegging	5	--	--	--					
Rice	Emerged	100	100	100	100	1	3	16	71	9
Sorghum	Heading	13	6	1	7	0	1	12	87	0
Soybeans	Planted	100	99	100	99	2	12	23	53	10
	Emerged	99	98	98	97					
	Blooming	68	55	45	38					
	Setting Pods	20	--	13	9					
Wheat	Mature	100	100	99	99	0	6	38	34	22
	Harvested	98	92	84	80					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	98	97	99	99	7	23	23	44	3
		(Warm Season)	29	22	37					
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	61	60	49	57	0	4	25	70	1
Watermelons	Harvested	20	--	0	3	0	2	10	85	3
Blueberries						0	1	19	56	24
Cattle						3	18	32	37	10
Pasture						18	40	29	13	0

County Agent Comments

“Crops are going through an early drought. Many producers have not received any rain in 5 weeks. Non-irrigated crops are suffering. Beans that were intended to be planted behind wheat will not be planted because of the lack of moisture.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Most crops are showing signs of moisture stress. Irrigation has been started, where possible.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“In many parts of the state, we are in need of rain. Corn and soybeans are definitely showing the effects of the dry weather. There is rain in the forecast for Saturday, June 17. We will cross our fingers that we do receive this moisture. The wheat harvest is completed. The yields looked pretty good from the reports I have seen.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“South Mississippi is still very dry. We are going to have several hundred acres of cotton that won't be planted, and many acres with poor stands. Corn is silking now, but needs substantial rainfall to make a crop. Our last general rainfall was around May 1.”

— Mike Howell, Covington

“Rainfall was about half of an inch. It helps, but we need more. Insect pressure is still light. Growers will have to keep pumping water for irrigation.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Dryland crops are in bad shape and those with irrigation are being watered for the second or third time.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We don't have to wait for the dog days of summer any longer. They are here. Crops without irrigation are burning up. Hay is being cut in the morning and raked and rolled up that afternoon. We need a good general rain.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Hopefully it will rain this weekend. Operations are extremely dry. Corn is in the silking stage, beans are blooming, and cotton is about 10 days away from first bloom. Plant bugs are beginning to show up in the older cotton.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Much needed rain was received throughout the weekend. Amounts varied from 1 inch to over 3 inches across the county. If there had not been any rain, there would have been some severe crop damage.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Rainfall in areas over the weekend will relieve the stress on crops. Most cotton and soybeans have received post emergence herbicide applications.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“The lack of moisture has become a serious concern. Pastures are drying up. The first cutting of hay is extremely short. Corn is seriously hurt. Cotton and soybeans are not looking as bad but they soon will, if we don't get some rain.”

— Danny Owen, Tishomingo

“There have been many irrigation activities. Also, there have been some insecticide applications, mostly in cotton. Herbicide layby work has been done in cotton, too. Over the weekend, most of the area received one inch or more of needed rain.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Hot, dry weather is dictating plant growth and conditions. Some areas of the county have not had any rain since the first week in May. So far, most crops are holding up fairly well. All operators who are capable of irrigating are doing so.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“We are receiving scattered rains now. This trend needs to continue for several days to recharge the soil. Crops have already sustained significant damage from drought conditions.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Weekend showers were a blessing for many of us. Rain was scattered across most of Mississippi. However, these showers only provided a temporary relief from the drought.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Showers on Friday and Sunday night were a welcomed sight. Several parts of the county did not receive any significant rain, but we are hopeful that forecasted rains for later in the week will reach everybody.”

— Ruby D. Rankin, Kemper

“Last week, farmers wrapped up the first cutting of hay. Producers were all out of moisture and waiting for rain. Sunday, June 18, evening thunderstorms brought rainfall amounts of 1-2 inches with some minor wind damage.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“We are in a drought situation and corn is starting to twist. Pastures are getting short. Producers are having to rotate their cattle on a short grazing interval between fields and some producers are feeding what little hay that they has left to cattle. Cotton and peanuts are weathering the dry weather well. Weed control is excellent. Pine beetles are showing up in stressed pines. Ponds are low.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“We had a few scattered showers this weekend around the county. One inch of rain was the most reported at a time. Soil moisture is still very short. The hay crop and pastures need much more rain. Agronomic crops and vegetables are suffering from the dry weather and heat. Cattle are losing weight due to the lack of grazing.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“The lack of rainfall continues to be a problem for all producers. Pastures are extremely dry and cattle are showing the stress of adequate grazing.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Operators are having to rotate cattle in such a way that does not allow any hay growth. Water shortage is a critical concern.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

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

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Weather Summary from June 12, 2006 to June 18, 2006 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													
Cleveland	96	62	82	79	+3	0.00	-1.14	0	0.09				
Lambert	96	61	80			1.20	+0.01	2	1.75				
Tunica	95	63	78	79	-1	2.21	+0.95	2	2.35				
Extreme/Average	96	61	79	79	0	1.71	+0.53	2					
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	92	60	78	76	+2	0.14	-0.91	1	1.12				
Hickory Flat	96	57	76	75	+1	1.27	+0.16	1	1.82				
Independence	96	58	77	76	+1	0.52	-0.60	2	1.22				
Oxford	97	60	79	76	+3	1.19	+0.13	1	1.69				
Extreme/Average	97	57	77	77	0	0.87	-0.25	1	1.69				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	98	63	80	76	+4	0.85	-0.16	1	1.56				
Iuka				73		0.10E	-0.78	1	0.74E				
Ripley	96	58	75	75	0	1.22	+0.17	1	1.58				
Tupelo	95	62	79			0.05		1	0.76				
Verona	97	57	78	77	+1	0.20	-0.88	1	1.46				
Extreme/Average	98	57	79	77	+2	0.30	-0.75	1	1.26				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	98	65	83	79	+4	0.24	-0.74	2	0.81				
Rolling Fork	97	65	81	79	+2	0.10E	-0.88	1	1.56E				
Stoneville	96	63	81	80	+1	0.00	-0.91	0	0.57				
Yazoo City	95	64	80	79	+1	0.00	-0.91	0	0.60				
Extreme/Average	98	63	81	80	+1	0.11	-0.87	1	1.07				
5. Central													
Canton	97	64	80	79	+1	0.54	-0.19	1	0.87				
Carthage	96	64	80	77	+3	0.32	-0.45	2	0.32				
Eupora	95	61	79	76	+3	0.19	-0.79	2	0.96				
Lexington	95	54	78	77	+1	1.04	+0.05	2	1.14				
Extreme/Average	97	54	79	78	+1	0.52	-0.39	2	1.14				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	97	64	81	77	+4	0.00	-0.98	0	0.30				
Houston	94	57	77	76	+1	0.06	-1.16	1	0.25				
Philadelphia				78		0.40E	-0.51	1	0.68E				
State University	97	60	80	78	+2	0.02	-0.89	1	0.54				
Extreme/Average	97	57	79	78	+1	0.12	-0.86	1	0.36				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	97	56	80	79	+1	0.00	-1.33	0	2.09				
Natchez	95	63	80	79	+1	0.10	-1.01	1	1.07				
Oakley				78		0.80E	-0.32	1	2.01E				
Vicksburg	95	65	81			0.18		1	0.18				
Extreme/Average	97	56	80	79	+1	0.30	-0.81	1	2.09				
8. South-Central													
Collins	97	67	82	78	+4	0.15	-0.76	1	0.48				
Columbia				79		0.00	-1.12	0	0.02				
Tylertown	98	67	82	79	+3	0.00	-1.12	0	0.06				
Extreme/Average	98	67	82	79	+3	0.08	-0.97	1	0.27				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	99	70	83	79	+4	0.01	-0.97	1	1.17				
Laurel	97	69	82	78	+4	0.01	-0.84	1	0.68				
Newton	98	64	81	77	+4	1.32	+0.45	2	1.56				
Extreme/Average	99	64	82	78	+4	0.45	-0.46	1	1.12				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport	92	70	81	80	+1	0.00	-1.12	0	0.50				
Pascagoula 3 NE				79					0.00				
Picayune				79		0.00	-1.09	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	92	70		80									
State	99	54	80	78	+2	0.45	-0.57	1	1.16				

DFN = Departure from Normal.