

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 30, 2006

Released: 3:00 P.M., July 31, 2006

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, July 30, 2006**. Recent rains in some areas of the state helped row crop conditions; however, some crops continue to be in a steady drought-like state. In areas of the state that received rain, hay conditions are slowly improving and hopes are high that the demand for feeding hay will decrease. Some heat-damaged corn is being harvested early for silage. Soil moisture was rated 44 percent very short, 34 percent short, 21 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	99	97	92	94	19	23	29	27	2
	Dent	87	78	68	75					
	Mature	37	18	6	18					
	Silage Harvested	82	68	57	51					
Cotton	Squaring	100	100	100	99	11	20	30	30	9
	Setting Bolls	93	83	92	91					
Peanuts	Pegging	100	100	--	--	4	17	52	23	4
Rice	Heading	79	58	64	64	1	8	19	59	13
Sorghum	Heading	100	99	99	98	4	17	27	51	1
	Turning Color	86	76	55	58					
Soybeans	Blooming	100	99	99	96	15	23	32	24	6
	Setting Pods	96	93	92	86					
	Turning Color	37	21	6	11					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	70	65	73	68	21	41	30	8	0
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	100	100	100	100	2	24	35	34	5
Watermelons	Harvested	95	93	92	90	4	20	35	40	1
Blueberries						2	3	23	71	1
Cattle						15	16	36	31	2
Pasture						25	34	31	10	0

### County Agent Comments

“Drought conditions still exist over most of the county. A few areas received a little rain last week but we are still behind on total rainfall for the month and the year. Hay is short and pastures are shorter.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Corn and soybean harvests have been in progress for about 2 weeks. Yields are very depressing.”

— Robert Martin, Issaquena

“Soil moisture is still a little short because of previous drought conditions. Although pastures are improving, the hay crop has suffered this year due to drought conditions.”

— Amanda Walker, Lawrence

“Isolated thunderstorms brought some relief to drought stricken areas of the county. But the majority of the county is still looking for rain. Even those areas that were lucky enough to receive rain need more. Areas that have received rain are seeing pastures and hay fields green up and show some growth. Hay will be short for most producers in the county. Corn yields will be dramatically lower than in previous years.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“Operators are cutting some hay, but there is a question of if it will be enough. Most of the hay barns were wiped out by Katrina and have not been replaced, therefore hay will be stored in the field.”

— Judith Breland, Stone “Growers are trying to get through this crop. Soybeans are cutting from 5 to 30 bushels and fuel costs are very high to run irrigation.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Scattered showers that resembled a heavy dew hit the county this week. Irrigation systems haven't checked up. Soybeans are being harvested and I am hearing anywhere from 8 to 20 bushels per acre. We may see 8 or 10 folks chasing the same rabbit this winter.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We had some scattered showers this past weekend, but it evaporated rapidly in the heat. Corn, soybeans and pastures are really hurting for moisture. Cotton is growing but needs moisture.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We missed the rain again. Cattlemen are considering selling a lot of cattle since we have about a 30% hay crop with no potential for more hay.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Some severely drought stressed corn is being salvaged as green chop and silage for cattle feed. Insect pressure in soybeans and cotton is low.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Rainfall came Saturday, but it may have been too late for corn. Some cotton plants are dropping squares because of the heat. No insect problems have been noticed.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“The rains that we received, for the most part, were too late, too little, and too scattered. Soybean yields are running 10 to 20 bushels per acre. Yields for irrigated soybeans will be better.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Most areas of the county have not had an inch rain since before this crop was planted. A rain at this time will have very little benefit on most crops.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“Conditions are still very dry. Irrigation fields are requiring over 1" per week to just keep up. Flood and furrow irrigation yields will be much better this year due to the amount of water available. Some insects are being sprayed in irrigated cotton and soybeans.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Scattered showers have helped some producers, but the bulk of farms still need rain to keep crops on track. Some corn and soybeans are nearing harvest and will not be improved by rain.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Presently, there is a lot of winter hay being fed because of the drought-like conditions. Some areas are getting showers that are helping to stimulate grass growth in the pastures and hay fields. There have been some reports of armyworm outbreaks in several areas of the state this past week. If we start getting some soaking rains soon, we can still make a fair amount of hay provided we cut until frost.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Corn is rapidly maturing. Pasture conditions are continuing to deteriorate. Hay production has been reduced by 70 percent.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Cotton is blooming and setting bolls. The recent rains have greatly improved the appearance of the cotton plants. The final affects will come when the cotton is in the gin. The soybeans are beginning to mature. It will not be long before the combines will begin their work. Pastures are looking better in the areas that have received rain. Hay supplies are short and there are concerns about feeding of cattle this winter. There are still areas that need rainfall!”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“The few scattered showers we received last weekend and the beginning of the week were not much but they really helped. Things look much better. Without more rain in a few days, we will be right back where we started.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“We had a good county-wide rain on Sunday. It was really needed; especially for forage crops.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Scattered evening thunderstorms have brought much needed rain. It has not been enough to build soil moisture but it has boosted grass growth. Pastures are looking better and the prospects for the hay harvest are looking better even though we will likely go into winter with low hay supplies.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“The recent rainfall has helped to moderately improve grazing in some areas that have not been over- grazed. The cotton crop is looking good so far. Producers are reporting lower yields and quality for hay.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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

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

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Dr. Vance H. Watson, Interim Director**

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

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO  
Thomas L. Gregory,**

Weather Summary from July 24, 2006 to July 30, 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	97	65	81	82	-1	0.22	-0.30	1	1.30				
Lambert						0.00	-0.71	0	1.41				
Tunica	95	67	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.70	0	0.39				
Extreme/Average	97	65	81	82	-1	0.11	-0.67	1	1.30				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	93	63	80	81	-1	0.03	-0.83	1	0.78				
Hickory Flat	96	59	79	80	-1	0.20	-0.76	2	2.33				
Independence	93	59	78	81	-3	0.04	-0.73	2	2.67				
Oxford	95	62	81	80	+1	0.00	-0.84	0	0.50				
Extreme/Average	96	59	80	81	-1	0.07	-0.80	1	2.67				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	97	64	81	80	+1	0.59	-0.28	1	2.73				
Iuka	94	59	78	78	0	0.71	-0.32	1	1.48				
Ripley	96	63	80	80	0	0.71	-0.23	1	1.29				
Tupelo	96	69	83			0.00		0	1.75				
Verona	96	66	81	81	0	0.00	-0.77	0	3.34				
Extreme/Average	97	59	81	81	0	0.36	-0.51	1	1.52				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	94	68	82	83	-1	0.09	-0.83	2	1.25				
Rolling Fork	98	71	83	82	+1	0.43	-0.38	2	1.02				
Stoneville				83		0.00	-0.72	0	1.78				
Yazoo City	94	64	81	82	-1	0.35	-0.56	1	1.19				
Extreme/Average	98	64	82	83	-1	0.09	-0.79	2	1.25				
5. Central													
Canton	96	63	81	82	-1	0.07	-0.77	2	1.11				
Carthage	95	64	81	81	0	0.10	-0.90	1	2.94				
Eupora				80		0.23	-0.59	1	2.28				
Lexington	93	61	79	80	-1	0.25	-0.52	2	3.30				
Extreme/Average	96	61	80	81	-1	0.14	-0.86	2	3.30				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	95	66	81	81	0	1.43	+0.64	1	3.13				
Houston	96	62	81	80	+1	0.00	-0.78	0	0.46				
Philadelphia				81		0.00	-1.04	0	2.33				
State University	95	61	80	81	-1	0.06	-0.87	1	2.70				
Extreme/Average	96	61	81	81	0	0.50	-0.44	1	2.10				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	96	66	81	82	-1	0.00	-0.86	0	3.28				
Natchez	93	67	81	82	-1	0.19	-0.67	4	4.14				
Oakley	94	64	80	81	-1	0.20	-0.64	1	6.99				
Vicksburg	92	66	80			0.81		3	6.18				
Extreme/Average	96	64	81	82	-1	0.13	-0.85	2	3.28				
8. South-Central													
Collins	94	70	81	81	0	0.20	-0.88	1	5.36				
Columbia	94	70	81	82	-1	2.07	+0.85	3	5.70				
Tylertown	95	69	81	81	0	0.38	-0.92	4	5.70				
Extreme/Average	95	69	81	82	-1	0.88	-0.30	3					
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	93	71	80	82	-2	0.08	-1.19	1	5.66				
Laurel	96	70	82	82	0	0.03	-1.17	3	1.10				
Newton	95	64	81	81	0	1.63 E	+0.55	1	2.79 E				
Extreme/Average	96	64	81	81	0	0.83	-0.35	2	1.10				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport	91	73	83	83	0	0.12	-1.43	1	1.74				
Pascagoula 3 NE				81		0.00	-1.65	0	0.00				
Picayune				82		0.75 E	-0.71	2	2.50 E				
Extreme/Average	91	73	83	82	+1	0.12	-1.41	1					
State	98	59	81	82	-1	0.34	-0.68	2	2.18				

DFN = Departure from Normal.