



Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 11, 2005

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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 September 11, 2005**. Mississippi farmers are trying to make the best out of a stressful harvesting season. As cotton harvesting begins in the state, farmers are hopeful that the crop withstood the conditions brought on by the hurricane. Dairy and poultry operations have also experienced their share of problems due to a lack of power and available fuel for generators. Dairy operations that were not able to store milk were forced to dump their inventory, and some poultry operations reported extensive losses from not being able to keep poultry houses adequately cooled. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent very short, 29 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2004	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dent	99	98	100	100					
	Mature	98	91	100	98					
	Harvested	79	59	85	76	--	--	--	--	--
	Silage Harvested	100	99	100	99					
Cotton	Open Bolls	75	55	75	78					
	Harvested	2	--	2	6	5	11	26	47	11
Rice	Mature	74	54	90	81					
	Harvested	16	5	53	37	3	11	16	62	8
Sorghum	Mature	100	99	99	98					
	Harvested	87	65	82	74	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	92	82	95	82					
	Shedding Leaves	79	65	83	67	4	9	23	52	12
	Harvested	54	37	63	39					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	27	15	11	22	0	2	22	55	21
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	96	89	85	88	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						14	16	39	23	8
Pasture						17	28	31	15	9

County Agent Comments

“Cotton is really popping open now. We will be defoliating this coming week.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Harvest of corn and Group IV soybeans is underway. Group V soybeans would benefit from rainfall. Cotton defoliation was initiated last week.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Some of the producers in the county have lost corn and other crops, and have fences that need to be replaced. There are also a number of trees down.”

— Thomas Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Cotton has prematurely opened bolls. We have a 60% loss in mature timber stands, fences are down everywhere, and cattlemen are over grazing in smaller-than-usual paddocks. It is very dry.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Corn and soybean harvest have begun on early- planted varieties with average yields being reported. Most cotton will have to be defoliated by air. Insect pressure has been light this season. Pastures could use moisture.

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Farmers are working as hard as they can to get the corn crop harvested. They are also working hard to get the soybeans out of the fields. To coin a phrase that is heard pretty regular now, they are in the "get 'er done" mode. All efforts are being used to get the crops harvested. We in the agricultural community have been slapped down, but we always seem to bounce back and we will again.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Rice harvest is slow and soybean yields have been good. There may be some cotton harvested at the end of week. Corn harvest is almost complete.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Cotton harvest should begin in Coahoma County today.”

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

“Corn and soybeans are almost out of the field for this year. Some cotton will be harvested starting this week. Rice is lodged real bad in most places and harvest will be very slow.”

— Jimbo Burkhatler, Tallahatchie

“Producers are applying harvest aid chemicals to cotton. Early soybeans are being harvested.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Corn and rice harvests have gone steady but slow due to all of the stalk lodging. Soybean harvest continues to go smooth with good yields. An excellent start was made with cotton defoliation with serious harvesting activities starting this week. A good start has also been made with fall land preparation.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Harvesting of all crops has been the major undertaking for this week. Cotton harvest and ginning are slowly getting started. Defoliation is widespread.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Weather in general, and more specifically Hurricane Katrina, is having a tremendous impact on corn and corn harvesting. It is beginning to show significant damage to the cotton crop as well. Because of this one storm, most potential profits from the 2005 crop will likely be wiped out. The only thing farmers can do now is salvage the remains and limit the damage.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Katrina has made a tremendous impact on corn and corn harvesting, and its results is being shown on cotton.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Warm, dry weather allowed hay harvest to return to normal. Soils flooded in the aftermath of Katrina are now drying and allowing farmers to better assess the harvest outlook. Corn harvest will be tedious and slow with most of the stalks on the ground. Mending fences and dealing with downed trees has been a major effort of many cattlemen during the last two weeks.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Dairy and beef cattle producers continue struggling to put their operations back in order in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Essentially all farms have significant damage to perimeter and cross fences; repair costs will be very high. Dairy and poultry producers suffered tremendous losses in the form of dumped milk and poultry mortality as they struggled to keep fuel in power generators in the first ten days following the August 29th storm. Widespread damage to farm buildings also presented problems to producers. The majority of dairy and beef producers will find themselves short of hay this winter- both in quantity and quality. Frequent rains this summer made harvesting high quality hay next to impossible. Many producers will lose their final cutting of summer hay in Katrina's aftermath. Further insult to injury for most producers will result from forced delays in planting ryegrass and small grains. Lack of early cool-season grazing will hinder production and force early feeding of precious hay supplies. Farmer morale is low; they need help.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

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

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Weather Summary from September 5, 2005 to September 11, 2005 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				77		0.00	-0.61	0	0.11				
Lambert	89	61	76			0.00	-0.77	0	1.17				
Tunica	90	64	77	76	+1	0.00	-0.63	0	3.31				
Extreme/Average	90	61	77	77	0	0.00	-0.70	0					
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City				76		0.00	-0.83	0	1.08				
Hickory Flat	89	57	73	74	-1	0.00	-0.92	0	5.46				
Independence				75		0.00	-0.82	0	3.53				
Oxford	90	59	74	75	-1	0.00	-0.84	0	4.31				
Extreme/Average	90	57	74	75	-1	0.00	-0.84	0					
3. Northeast													
Booneville	91	56	75	74	+1	0.00	-0.87	0	1.54				
Iuka	88	52	70	73	-3	0.00	-0.98	0	8.91				
Ripley	88	58	72	74	-2	0.00	-0.87	0	5.29				
Tupelo	89	63	76			0.00		0	5.03				
Verona				76		0.00	-1.00	0	5.65				
Extreme/Average	91	52	73	75	-2	0.00	-0.92	0	6.97				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	93	64	78	78	0	0.00	-0.75	0	3.87				
Rolling Fork				77		0.00	-0.65	0	1.49				
Stoneville				77					4.04				
Yazoo City	91	60	76	78	-2	0.00	-0.63	0	7.50				
Extreme/Average	93	60	77	78	-1	0.00	-0.68	0	3.87				
5. Central													
Canton				78		0.00	-0.70	0	1.03				
Carthage	89	59	75	77	-2	0.00	-0.84	0	2.78				
Eupora	89	57	73	75	-2	0.00	-0.88	0	0.90				
Lexington				76		0.00	-0.70	0	1.50				
Extreme/Average	89	57	75	77	-2	0.00	-0.80	0					
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen				76		0.00	-0.83	0	6.57				
Houston	89	56	73	75	-2	0.00	-0.92	0	2.94				
Philadelphia	91	60	77	77	0	0.00	-0.77	0	1.64				
State University				76		0.00	-0.83	0	4.03				
Extreme/Average	91	56	73	77	-4	0.00	-0.84	0					
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs				78		0.00	-1.05	0	0.64				
Natchez	92	60	76	78	-2	0.00	-0.91	0	0.17				
Oakley	92	58	78	77	+1	0.00	-0.73	0	4.11	92	83		
Vicksburg						0.00		0	1.17				
Extreme/Average	92	58	78	78	0	0.00	-0.91	0					
8. South-Central													
Collins				77					0.96				
Columbia	92	65	78	78	0	0.00	-1.03	0	6.95				
Tylertown				79		0.00	-0.98	0	1.95				
Extreme/Average	92	65	78	78	0	0.00	-0.98	0	6.95				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont									3.03				
Hattiesburg				79					2.23				
Laurel				78		0.00	-1.05	0	2.38				
Newton	91	53	74	77	-3	0.00	-0.84	0	0.00	80	73		
Extreme/Average	91	53	74	78	-4	0.00	-0.98	0					
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				80		0.00	-1.57	0	0.58				
Poplarville				79					3.01				
Waveland				79					0.00				
Extreme/Average				79									
State	93	52	75	77	-2	0.00	-0.85	0	5.90				

DFN = Departure from Normal.