



Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone:601-965-4575
Facsimile:601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/

Week Ending September 25, 2005

Released: 3:00 P.M., September 26, 2005

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 25, 2005**. Hurricane Rita brought additional rain and gusty winds to parts of the state. Farmers in the Delta experienced additional stress on crops, especially on rice and cotton. Until the rains arrived over the weekend, harvesting was progressing well as dry weather conditions allowed farmers much-needed time to work in the fields. Hay harvesting has struggled with the wet conditions, and concerns of adequate supplies for the winter are on the minds of many cattle farmers due to a growing shortage of grazing time and feeding hay to cattle earlier than planned. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 15 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 55 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	Mature	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	94	87	96	94					
Cotton	Open Bolls	94	89	91	94	12	18	36	32	2
	Harvested	19	8	19	25					
Rice	Mature	97	85	98	97	7	11	32	47	3
	Harvested	60	28	84	70					
Sorghum	Harvested	99	96	98	95	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	99	97	100	95					
	Shedding Leaves	94	89	96	86	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	78	67	82	58					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	45	38	28	41	0	8	48	44	0
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	98	97	89	93	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						14	18	24	34	10
Pasture						16	32	25	21	6

County Agent Comments

“Rain and wind from the remnants of Hurricane Rita took additional tolls on our cotton and rice crops. An isolated tornado added to localized crop damage, including cotton module damage and damage to a cotton gin.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Hurricane Katrina took a toll on the rice and corn crop but didn't do much damage to the cotton crop. Hurricane Rita has left the cotton crop in severe damage. Cotton that had not been defoliated looks as if it has already been harvested. Cotton is also under water in some spots, and you can see the lint floating in the middle of the rows.”

— Alma Harris, Washington

“Things have begun to settle down somewhat after Katrina, but we need rain and hope it would come with Rita without the destruction. Farmers will start planting ryegrass now that they have a little moisture in the ground.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Livestock and dairy producers continue facing difficulties resulting from Hurricane Katrina's destruction of fences and interference with summer grass hay harvest and cool-season pasture establishment. Many dairy and beef producers are feeding hay early which will lead to a shortage of stored forage this winter -- especially since most producers have lost their final cutting of summer hay. Many dairy and beef producers are selling replacement females to reduce feed demand and generate money to aid in repairing fences, paying extra fuel expenses of operating power generators, and planting ryegrass. Immediate financial assistance is desperately needed to prevent many area dairy and beef producers from being forced out of business. This is the most critical financial situation most producers have ever been forced to deal within their lives. Stress and anxiety levels are highly elevated. Without immediate financial assistance, many farms will be lost.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“This year's cotton crop is destroyed as result of Hurricane Katrina.”

— Walter E. Walker, Jackson

“High winds and 5+ inches of rain pounded an extremely vulnerable crop. Rita laid down the rice that Katrina did not get. Most of the rice is down. An estimated 500 pounds of cotton lint is on the ground in places.”

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

“Corn is out, soybeans are almost all out, and cotton farmers are trying to get as much as possible out before the rains from the hurricane set in.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Heavy rain and wind from the remnants of Hurricane Rita has most of the unharvested rice laying on the ground. Cotton producers also expect to lose some yield and quality due to Hurricane Rita.”

— Anthony Bland, Tunica

“Producers are applying harvest aid chemicals to cotton; they continue to harvest soybeans and corn.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“There was some local flooding from Rita, but was widespread. Rain across the county varied from 2-6 inches. Cotton harvesting will get fully underway this week as soon as the fields dry out enough to hold the pickers up.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn and soybean harvests continued until storms from the tropical depression arrived. Cotton harvest aids are being applied.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Corn and soybean harvests continue with above average yields. Cotton defoliation has begun, but rain over the weekend halted most fieldwork. Pastures look good from the recent rains.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Four plus inches of rain from Rita has stopped all harvest and fieldwork until the end of the week.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“Harvest is well underway, but possible rains on Sunday and Monday will stop harvest for a few days.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“This second hurricane has probably caused some increase in field loss, but since the soil was relatively dry, farmers should be able to go back to work in 3 to 4 days. I have no estimate of damage so far, but some of the lodged corn that had not been harvested may have been further damaged since these fields will not dry out as well as those standing. It will require a week or more of clear weather before harvest can resume in these situations. Cotton harvesting will be delayed for 3 to 5 days, but moisture should aid in getting leaves off plants.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Severe weather came through Starkville on Sunday afternoon causing major structural damage on portions of the MSU campus and nearby areas. There are no reports of farm, crop or livestock damage at this time. Heavy rainfall amounts of approximately 2 inches fell in many areas of the county. Harvesting of corn is slowly making progress, soybeans continue to mature, and hay harvest is near complete.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Cotton harvest is in full swing. The pickers are running everywhere I look. The soybean harvest has slowed in order to try to get the cotton out of the fields. Cotton harvest is progressing quite well and if the weather doesn't run us out of the fields, it will be completed in short order. We have our eyes placed on the path of Rita.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“We received very little rain from Hurricane Rita and some wind. We are in need of moisture!”

— Michael Howell, Covington

“Recovery measures are underway for most agricultural enterprises. We are hopeful for success in timber harvest.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Beef cattle producers are still being impacted by the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Fences are still down, hay is questionable, and pastures are covered with all types debris. All aspects of agriculture have suffered a severe blow and recovery will be long and trying. Forestry, which is the major agricultural crop in the county, has suffered the hardest blow affecting not only landowners but companies and individuals who harvest timber for the market.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“There is so much litter from trees in the fields that farmers cannot take advantage of possible hay cutting time. Rain from Rita may green up grass for grazing, but with litter in fields I am not sure on hay supplies for the winter.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

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. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

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

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural
Statistics Service
Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from September 19, 2005 to September 25, 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	99	70	84	73	+11	3.50E	+2.86	1	7.89				
Lambert	99	66	83			1.91	+1.17	1	4.83				
Tunica	98	68	83	72	+11	2.31	+1.68	3	4.86				
Extreme/Average	99	66	83	72	+11	2.57	+1.85	2	4.86				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	93	62	79	71	+8	0.19	-0.61	1	5.19				
Hickory Flat	94	61	78	70	+8	0.25	-0.65	1	6.72				
Independence	95	63	80	71	+9	0.47	-0.33	1	3.65				
Oxford	96	66	81	70	+11	0.19	-0.65	1	5.25				
Extreme/Average	96	61	79	71	+8	0.28	-0.56	1					
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	61	78	70	+8	0.06	-0.78	2	7.51				
Iuka	89	56	75	68	+7	0.00	-0.97	0	9.24				
Ripley	92	60	77	70	+7	0.15	-0.75	1	5.83				
Tupelo	94	65	81			1.20		4	5.72				
Verona				72		0.15	-0.79	1	6.09				
Extreme/Average	94	56	77	71	+6	0.31	-0.61	2	7.02				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead				74		2.09	+1.25	1	7.26				
Rolling Fork				73	+11	3.85	+3.11	1	7.30				
Stoneville	100	72	84	73	+11	6.78	+5.98	1	9.74				
Yazoo City	95	70	82	74	+8	1.22	+0.52	1	8.12				
Extreme/Average	100	64	83	74	+9	3.49	+2.72	1	7.69				
5. Central													
Canton	94	67	81	74	+7	1.96	+1.26	1	11.42				
Carthage	95	66	80	73	+7	0.80	-0.00	1	6.85				
Eupora	95	63	79	71	+8	0.12	-0.79	1	6.14				
Lexington	96	66	81	72	+9	2.20	+1.50	1	7.40				
Extreme/Average	96	63	80	73	+7	1.27	+0.45	1					
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	94	64	80	72	+8	0.35	-0.56	1	7.38				
Houston	93	58	79	70	+9	0.23	-0.69	1	5.74				
Philadelphia				73		1.25	+0.49	1	9.67				
State University				72		0.80	E-	1	3.68				
Extreme/Average	94	58	79	73	+6	0.61	-0.23	1	7.38				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	97	67	81	74	+7	1.30	+0.27	1	7.72				
Natchez				75		7.80E	+6.96	2	9.30				
Oakley	99	67	83	73	+10	1.50	+0.80	1	1.81				
Vicksburg	98	71	83			2.73		1	2.75				
Extreme/Average	99	67	83	74	+9	3.33	+2.46	1					
8. South-Central													
Collins				74		0.25	-0.72	2	0.95				
Columbia	97	70	83	75	+8	0.36	-0.58	3	5.50				
Tylertown	95	69	81	75	+6	1.08	+0.17	3	1.09				
Extreme/Average	97	69	82	74	+8	0.72	-0.22	3	5.50				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg				75		0.22	-0.74	1	0.22				
Laurel	96	68	82	74	+8	0.22	-0.77	2	0.22				
Newton	97	60	79	72	+7	0.64	-0.20	1	0.66				
Extreme/Average	97	60	80	74	+6	0.43	-0.53	2					
10.Coastal													
Gulfport				77		0.23	-1.15	2	0.23				
Poplarville				76			-0.95	0	0.00				
Waveland				76									
Extreme/Average				76									
State	100	56	81	73	+8	1.43	+0.58	1	6.61				

DFN = Departure from Normal.