

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending March 16, 2003

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 1.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 16, 2003**. Soil moisture was rated 20 percent adequate and 80 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2001	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	3	--	9	15	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	25	--	17	25	1	9	50	40	0
Cattle						2	13	34	46	5
Pasture						8	22	33	33	4
Hay Supply						Short	Adequate	Surplus		
						18	74	8		
Feed Grain						12	82	6		

County Agent Comments

"Some corn was planted last week. Growers are ready to get in the field and get more corn planted. Wheat looks better, but we have some thin stands."

—Don Respass, Bolivar County

"We were just starting to get in the fields for burn- down and to fertilize this week. Rain Wednesday varied from ½ inch to 1½ inches. This put a stop to everything at least for a week."

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada County

"Saturated soils continue to keep row crop producers out of the fields and livestock producers in the mud trying to feed their remaining hay. Cattle are showing the results of a long wet and cold winter. Body condition scores are at an all time low."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

"We got a rain on Thursday that ended corn planting and will hold equipment out of the field for another week."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

"Excessive rains are causing some delays in field preparation. We need 10-14 days of dry weather conditions."

— Stacy Brown, Monroe County

"Dry weather allowed producers to apply nitrogen fertilizer to ryegrass and wheat last week, but heavy rains continue to cause muddy conditions for livestock producers. This is putting cattle under stressful conditions. Some sunny, drier days are needed. Hay supplies are almost exhausted, so producers will rely on grazing for the remainder of the spring. Corn planting has been hampered by the wet conditions and the continual rains."

— Richard Hay, Amite County

"Excessive thunderstorms have moved through the entire county for the past several weeks, dumping excessive water and causing any type of field crop preparations to be impossible. Some ryegrass fields are starting to show signs of growth for the first time during this season."

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River County

"The ground is saturated and more rain is in the forecast. At this time very little field work and corn planting have been done. Ryegrass fields also are too wet to graze."

— Otis L. Davis, Madison County

"Wet conditions prevailed for the week, slowing field drying and bringing any field operations to a halt."

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha County

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Mississippi Agricultural
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Weather Summary from March 10, 2003 to March 16, 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				52		0.79	-0.57	1	8.89				
Cleveland	74	32	52	52	0	0.24	-1.01	1	5.22				
Tunica				52		1.50	+0.25	1	1.50				
Extreme/Average	74	32	52	53	-1	0.52	-0.80	1	5.22				
2. North-Central													
Batesville	77	30	55	51	+4	1.63	+0.30	1	6.12				
Calhoun City	79	31	55	52	+3	0.42	-0.88	2	5.62				
Independence	75	28	50	51	-1	0.37	-0.81	1	4.48				
Oxford	79	29	55	51	+4	0.65	-0.68	1	6.05				
Extreme/Average	79	28	54	52	+2	0.77	-0.56	1	5.57				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	76	31	52	51	+1	0.67	-0.79	1	4.77				
Corinth City	77	29	54	53	+1	0.22	-1.17	1	3.86				
Iuka	76	27	50	48	+2	0.36	-1.23	2	4.37				
Ripley				50		0.43	-0.97	2	4.99				
Tupelo	78	32	54			0.36		2	4.93				
Extreme/Average	78	27	53	52	+1	0.41	-1.00	2	4.58				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	70	34	53	55	-2	0.48	-0.99	1	8.90	75	49	61	
Rolling Fork	79	35	56	55	+1	0.00	-1.40	0	7.38	70	50	59	
Stoneville	71	33	52	54	-2	0.64	-0.62	2	6.32		44		
Yazoo City	79	37	57	57	0	0.03	-1.52	1	5.06				
Extreme/Average	79	33	54	55	-1	0.29	-1.11	1	6.92	75	44	60	
5. Central													
Canton	78	36	57	56	+1	0.12	-1.28	1	7.17				
Carthage	80	37	59	55	+4	0.13	-1.27	1	8.40				
Lexington	78	33	55	55	0	0.43	-0.97	1	7.57				
Winona	78	31	54	51	+3	0.25	-1.22	2	7.47				
Extreme/Average	80	31	56	55	+1	0.23	-1.17	1	7.65				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	78	35	56	52	+4	1.25	-0.16	2	7.51				
Houston	79	28	54	52	+2	0.51	-0.99	2	5.25				
Louisville	78	37	58	53	+5	0.00	-1.50	0	7.64				
State University	79	34	56	53	+3	0.83	-0.55	2	8.14	62	52	58	0.12
Extreme/Average	79	28	56	54	+2	0.65	-0.80	2	7.14	62	52	58	0.12
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	80	39	59	57	+2	1.50	+0.17	1	8.62	74	53	63	
Natchez	78	42	59	59	0	1.50	-0.04	3	8.17				
Oakley	81	38	58	56	+2	0.31	-1.13	2	9.51	69	56	63	
Vicksburg	78	39	57			0.34		1	7.37				
Extreme/Average	81	38	58	57	+1	0.91	-0.56	2	8.42	74	53	63	
8. South-Central													
Collins	79	42	60	56	+4	0.85	-0.65	3	6.33				
Columbia	81	45	62	58	+4	1.24	-0.23	2	7.47				
Tylertown	75	45	62	59	+3	0.91	-0.50	2	7.79				
Extreme/Average	81	42	61	58	+3	1.00	-0.42	2	7.20				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	80	42	63			1.28		2	10.45				
Hattiesburg	77	45	62	58	+4	1.77	+0.32	4	6.68				
Laurel	79	43	62	57	+5	1.32	-0.08	3	6.72				
Newton	78	37	59	55	+4	1.93	+0.46	1	5.97	67	52	60	0.12
Extreme/Average	80	37	62	57	+5	1.58	+0.11	3	7.46	67	52	60	0.12
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	80	48	65	60	+5	0.64	-0.93	2	3.99				
Gulfport	81	54	68	61	+7	1.49	+0.09	3	7.86				
Pascagoula	75	49	64	58	+6	0.82	-0.65	4	9.04				
Poplarville	74	47	61	59	+2	1.23	-0.30	2	7.18	69	48	62	
Waveland	77	51	64	59	+5	1.45	-0.08	3	8.01				
Extreme/Average	81	47	64	60	+4	1.13	-0.25	3	6.76	69	48	62	
State	81	27	57	55	+2	0.77	-0.64	2	6.90	75	44	60	0.11

DFN = Departure from Normal.