

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 17, 2002**. Many farmers are waiting for the ground to dry out in order to begin spring planting. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 52 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	10	--	--	13	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	20	--	--	25	1	14	38	41	6
Hay						0	8	31	49	12
Cattle						1	5	29	58	7
Pasture						1	11	38	42	8
Hay Supply						Short	Adequate	Surplus		
						1	62	37		
Feed Grain						2	95	3		

### County Agent Comments

“We need the ground to dry so we can plant some corn. It is very wet and still raining.”

—Don Respass, Bolivar County

“Between 2 to 3 inches of rain stopped all field work. A few producers were getting started in the field before the rain. There has been some burn down chemical put out by air this week. Expect corn to go in the ground as soon as the fields are dry.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“Some sweetpotatoes have been bedded. I have heard of a small amount of corn that was going to be planted. It needs to dry up some before much field work can be done.”

— Charles Fitts, Calhoun County

“Recent heavy rains have hampered any early field work. Rain continues to move through the area. Most ditches are out and field flooding in some locations could delay field work for several more days, if not weeks.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn County

“During the first week of March, several producers started planting corn. Since then it has been too wet for any fieldwork. Planting intentions are subject to change daily. As of now, cotton and grain sorghum acreage will be down. Soybean and corn acreage will be up.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore County

“Rain this week interrupted corn planting. Ryegrass has responded to warm weather and is growing good.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin County

“Ryegrass pastures are beginning to recover from cold weather. Silage corn is being planted. Cows are in good shape.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones County

“Hopefully, the worst of winter is over. Extreme cold weather last week set us back. This week weather has been great. We got enough rain and the temperature is high enough that winter grazing is on the upswing. There is plenty of hay left, and we are hoping for a great spring. Grazing cattle are in good to excellent shape.”

— Mike Keene, Perry County

“Corn planting has been delayed in most parts of the county due to heavy rains. Ryegrass is expected to respond well as warmer days are approaching.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln County

**Weather Summary from March 11, 2002 to March 17, 2002 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													
Clarksdale	78	38	52	53	-1	3.33	+2.07	3	5.33				
Cleveland	80	28	52	53	-1	2.73	+1.47	3	5.31				
Tunica	78	33	52	52	0	4.34	+3.08	4	6.93				
Extreme/Average	80	28	52	53	-1	3.47	+2.16	3	5.86				
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				50		3.56E	+2.18	3	5.97E				
Memphis	77	34	54	53	+1	7.72	+6.46	5	9.39				
Oxford	80	42	57	51	+6	2.95	+1.61	3	5.41				
Extreme/Average	80	34	56	52	+4	4.74	+3.41	4	6.92				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	29	53	51	+2	3.24	+1.77	4	5.88				
Corinth	80	26	55	54	+1	4.05	+2.65	4	6.42				
Iuka	80	20	50	49	+1	2.27	+0.67	4	4.55				
Pontotoc	79	29	52	52	0	2.66	+1.26	4	5.30	60	47	53	
Tupelo	82	28	58	52	+6	2.95	+1.48	6	4.94				
Verona	80	29	54	53	+1	2.20	+0.80	4	3.89	64	41	53	0.18
Extreme/Average	82	20	54	52	+2	2.90	+1.49	4	5.16	64	41	53	0.18
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	83	38	55	55	0	2.00	+0.53	2	3.55	72	38	57	
Greenwood	83	31	59	56	+3	1.50	+0.18	5	3.86				
Rolling Fork	85	36	55	55	0	0.47	-0.93	2	3.06	73	52	59	0.10
Stoneville	81	32	52	54	-2	1.98E	+0.72	2	4.40E	70	45	54	
Yazoo City	84	33	55	57	-2	4.22	+2.66	4	6.18				
Extreme/Average	85	31	55	55	0	2.03	+0.63	3	4.38	73	38	57	0.10
5. Central													
Carthage	84	29	57	55	+2	2.15	+0.75	4	4.10				
Jackson	85	33	63	57	+6	3.39	+2.11	5	5.70				
Winona	83	25	51	51	0	2.29	+0.82	4	4.14				
Extreme/Average	85	25	57	55	+2	2.61	+1.21	4	4.65				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						1.67	+0.38	1	2.81				
Columbus	88	28	56	55	+1	2.69	+1.50	3	3.23				
State University	82	28	55	54	+1	2.26	+0.87	4	4.01	60	46	53	0.11
Extreme/Average	88	28	56	54	+2	2.21	+0.75	3	3.41	60	46	53	0.11
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	84	41	59	58	+1	1.95	+0.62	2	4.81	79	45	61	
Natchez	85	40	63	59	+4	0.40	-1.14	1	4.03				
Oakley	86	36	57	56	+1	2.62	+1.17	3	5.40	73	47	60	
Vicksburg	84	36	57			1.78		4	3.69				
Extreme/Average	86	36	59	58	+1	1.69	+0.22	3	4.48	79	45	60	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	87	36	63	59	+4	1.69	+0.22	3	4.00				
McComb	86	41	67	59	+8	1.24	-0.28	3	4.53				
Extreme/Average	87	36	65	58	+7	1.47	+0.06	3	4.00				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	86	32	61			1.60		2	4.60				
Hattiesburg	78	38	62	58	+4	1.56	+0.10	2	4.38				
Laurel	85	33	61	57	+4	1.00	-0.40	3	2.44				
Meridian	86	30	64	57	+7	2.23	+0.62	3	4.20				
Newton	85	27	58	55	+3	1.83	+0.36	3	3.59	70	44	57	0.17
Extreme/Average	86	27	61	57	+4	1.64	+0.17	3	3.84	70	44	57	0.17
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	86	33	62	60	+2	1.80	+0.22	1	3.16				
BiloxiAFB	75	45	63			1.63		1	3.94				
Gulfport	74	41	62	61	+1	1.66	+0.26	2	4.77				
Pascagoula	82	33	63			1.49		1	3.69				
Poplarville	85	37	63	59	+4	1.70	+0.18	3	4.60	76	49	62	0.19
Extreme/Average	86	33	62	60	+2	1.66	+0.29	2	4.06	76	49	62	0.19
State	88	20	58	56	+2	2.38	+0.97	3	4.60	79	38	57	0.14

DFN = Departure from Normal.