

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 19, 2000**. Rainfall across much of the state last week improved soil moisture conditions, but slowed down fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 34 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	47	35	12	10	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	28	7	1	1					
Wheat	Jointing	42	32	46	39	0	1	18	67	14
	Heading	2	--	--	--					
Watermelons	Planted	1	--	0	3	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						2	9	24	57	8
Pasture						3	12	37	41	7

County Agent Comments

“We got about 5 inches of rainfall last week that hurt the corn, but we needed the rain.”

— Don Respess, Bolivar County

“Farm activities are limited to repairing equipment and fertilizing pastures.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton County

“We received a lot of rain last weekend, but most of it ran off. We have good moisture in the beds but subsoil moisture still does not exist!”

— Steve Winters, Grenada County

“Last week, Madison County received some much needed rain. It is still too wet for producers to continue planting corn and preparing for soybean and cotton. Ryegrass pastures have really benefitted from the rain.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison County

“We received some much needed rain on March 18-19. This has greened-up fescue and ryegrass pastures. Hay supplies are short and not much field work is expected until the latter half of the week.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha County

“Soil moisture conditions remain terribly dry. Widespread rainfall over the weekend did allow most of the county to receive approximately one inch of rain. Corn for silage planting is approximately 80 percent completed. Producers went ahead and planted in hopes of rain. We have received enough rain to germinate corn crop, but must continue getting frequent showers to ensure good stand survival. We desperately need several inches of slow rain over an extended period to replenish soil moisture to adequate levels.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall County

“Sporadic rainfall has reduced the pressure from dry weather. Corn is planted and watermelon planting has begun.”

— Kerry Johnson, George County

Weather Summary from March 13, 2000 to March 19, 2000 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				53		E3.00		3	E6.90				0.13
Clarksdale													
Cleveland													
Tunica	69	35	54	52	+2	2.99	+1.73	3	5.93	60	43	52	
Extreme/Average	69	31	54	54	0	E3.00	+1.70	3	E6.42	60	43	52	
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	75	25	55	50	+5	2.87	+1.54	3	4.56	69	50	57	
Memphis	70	36	54	53	+1	3.04	+1.83	4	7.45				
Oxford	75	28	54	51	+3	2.30	+0.97	5	4.67				
Extreme/Average	75	25	54	53	+1	2.74	+1.41	4	5.56	69	50	57	
3. Northeast													
Booneville	71	29	52	52	0	2.12	+0.65	3	5.05				
Corinth	72	29	54	52	+2	1.57	+0.24	3	4.52				
Iuka	70	25	51			1.48		3	3.61				
Pontotoc	69	32	54	52	+2	2.53	+1.13	3	6.02	61	50	56	0.10
Tupelo	71	31	54	54	0	1.30	-0.10	4	4.32				
Verona	71	31	54			2.42		3	5.60	62	43	55	0.13
Extreme/Average	72	25	53	53	0	1.90	+0.49	3	4.85	62	43	56	0.11
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	74	32	56	56	0	3.50	+2.03	4	6.15	71	49	64	
Greenwood	75	33	57	55	+2	2.95	+1.62	4	6.36				
Rolling Fork	77	35	56	55	+1	1.68	+0.28	3	2.58	75	53	64	0.10
Stoneville	74	35	55	54	+1	4.49	+3.24	4	6.68	68	47	58	
Yazoo City	76	33	56	57	-1	1.97	+0.50	3	5.09				
Extreme/Average	77	32	56	56	0	2.92	+1.54	4	5.37	75	47	62	0.10
5. Central													
Carthage													
Jackson	74	31	58	57	+1	0.93	-0.40	4	3.55				
Winona	74	45	58	52	+6	1.69	+0.29	3	4.73				
Extreme/Average	74	31	58	56	+2	1.31	-0.09	4	4.14				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	80	32	59			0.09	-1.24	2	0.84	66	47	57	
Columbus	72	30	56			1.39		4	3.81				
State University	72	29	53	55	-2	0.75	-0.58	3	3.06	65	48	57	0.12
Extreme/Average	80	29	56	55	+1	0.74	-0.73	3	2.57	66	47	57	0.12
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	75	34	58			0.54		2	3.94	74	47	62	
Natchez	76	32	60	60	0	0.92	-0.55	3	5.45				
Oakley	76	33	59	57	+2	0.83	-0.57	3	10.02	72	47	62	
Vicksburg	74	34	58			2.75		3	5.25				
Extreme/Average	76	32	59	58	+1	1.26	-0.19	3	6.17	74	47	62	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	80	43	63	59	+4	1.25	-0.16	2	4.05				
McComb	78	35	60	58	+2	1.34	-0.06	4	3.57				
Extreme/Average	80	35	61	59	+2	1.30	-0.10	3	3.81				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont													
Hattiesburg	79	34	59	58	+1	1.27	-0.18	3	3.24				
Laurel	78	32	58	57	+1	1.68	+0.30	2	2.97				
Meridian	77	28	57	57	0	2.00	+0.46	3	3.65				
Newton	75	29	56	55	+1	1.60	+0.15	3	3.28	59	42	51	0.12
Extreme/Average	79	28	57	58	-1	1.64	+0.17	3	3.29	59	42	51	0.12
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis													
BiloxiAFB	79	39	65			4.62		3	4.94				
Gulfport	80	40	64	61	+3	2.88	+1.69	4	3.28				
PascagoulaAP	79	30	60			3.75		4	4.41				
Poplarville	78	38	61	59	+2	1.35	-0.03	3	2.62	76	57	65	0.27
Extreme/Average	80	30	62	60	+2	3.15	+1.80	4	3.81	76	57	65	0.27
State	80	25	57	56	+1	1.86	+0.46	3	4.49	76	42	58	0.14

DFN = Departure from Normal.

"E" = Indicates Estimated Values.