

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 15, 2000**. Since there was virtually no rain in the state last week, farmers made significant crop harvest progress. Soil moisture was rated 52 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 17 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton	Harvested	87	76	81	72	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	91	84	95	97	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Shedding Leaves	98	94	98	92	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	81	70	78	67					
Wheat	Planted	21	11	28	33	7	41	34	16	2
	Emerged	6	2	13	16					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	73	62	71	67	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (warm season)	Harvested	98	95	97	99	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						10	21	36	29	4
Pasture						35	26	28	11	0

### County Agent Comments

“Brief rains provided relief for a few days; however, conditions are still very dry. The cotton harvest will almost certainly prove to be the worst in recent history, and the same will be true of the corn and soybean harvests. Farmers need real help, not more loans, or they will be finished.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Dry weather has allowed row crop and forage producers to get what little yields that were in the fields out without rain delays. Hay is in short supply and winter forages aren't coming up to a good stand, or in some cases, they have started dying because of the lack of rain.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin County

“Some of the winter grazing is up and growing, but needs additional soil moisture. Soybean harvest is about halfway complete. Group V soybean yields have been very good in spite of the dry weather.”

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin County

“Very dry soil moisture conditions continue to prevail. We need a lot of rainfall to restore soil moisture to levels which can support acceptable growth of winter grasses. Summer hay production was terrible; we harvested approximately 30 percent of normal yields. Hopefully, this will be a wet and mild winter to allow high performance of cool season forages.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall County

“Drought-stricken trees are showing signs of severe distress. Hypoxylon canker, butt rott, and heart rott all are evident on trees in urban settings. Pine beetles continue to plague pine timber.”

— Chance McDavid, Harrison County

“Winter grazing crops, mostly wheat and ryegrass, are suffering from lack of moisture. A lot has been planted but there hasn't been enough rain to germinate the seeds. Harvest of all row crops is winding down. Non-irrigated crops continue to show very low yields.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“Fall harvest is quickly moving toward completion. Most producers are doing fall tillage with emphases being placed on conservation tillage. Although the soil is hard and dry, farmers are taking nematode and soil samples. Some lime and potash is in the process of being applied.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore County

**Weather Summary from October 9, 2000 to October 15, 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													
Clarksdale					65	0.00	-0.58	0	0.54				0.52
Cleveland	85	32	54			0.00		0	0.96				
Tunica	84	35	58	64	-6	0.00	-0.66	0	0.29	48	40	43	0.14
Extreme/Average	85	32	56	65	-9	0.00	-0.64	0	0.60	48	40	43	0.25
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	93	20	49	61	-12	0.00	-0.71	0	0.54	75	54	64	0.12
Memphis	85	36	61	65	-4	0.00	-0.63	0	1.10				
Oxford	86	26	55	62	-7	0.00	-0.73	0	0.67				
Extreme/Average	93	20	55	63	-8	0.00	-0.69	0	0.77	75	54	64	0.12
3. Northeast													
Booneville	82	32	54	62	-8	0.00	-0.70	0	0.16				
Corinth	81	27	50	63	-13	0.00	-0.66	0	0.52				
Iuka	82	26	50			0.00		0	1.59				
Pontotoc	82	31	55	63	-8	0.00	-0.70	0	0.95	66	59	62	0.09
Tupelo	85	31	58	64	-6	0.00	-0.71	0	0.96				
Verona	84	31	55			0.00		0	0.45	79	53	64	0.17
Extreme/Average	85	26	54	63	-9	0.00	-0.70	0	0.77	79	53	63	0.13
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	85	35	58	66	-8	0.00	-0.78	0	1.30	81	62	71	
Greenwood	84	27	57	66	-9	0.00	-0.77	0	0.80				
Rolling Fork	86	33	59	66	-7	0.00	-0.77	0	0.55	83	57	69	0.15
Stoneville	85	32	57	65	-8	0.00	-0.63	0	1.39	80	52	64	0.16
Yazoo City	82	33	56	67	-11	0.00	-0.84	0	2.33				
Extreme/Average	86	27	57	66	-9	0.00	-0.77	0	1.27	83	52	68	0.16
5. Central													
Carthage	82	31	54	65	-11	0.00	-0.70	0	0.27				
Jackson	82	37	58	66	-8	0.00	-0.70	0	2.30				
Winona	82	28	51	63	-12	0.00	-0.70	0	4.16				
Extreme/Average	82	28	55	65	-10	0.00	-0.76	0	2.24				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	79	36	55			0.00	-0.63	0	1.41	74	52	61	
Columbus	84	32	57			0.00		0	1.21				
State University	82	32	54	65	-11	0.00	-0.72	0	1.73	71	58	64	0.14
Extreme/Average	84	32	55	64	-9	0.00	-0.70	0	1.45	74	52	62	0.14
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	84	39	58			0.00		0	2.30	80	50	65	
Natchez	83	35	58	69	-11	0.00	-0.84	0	1.67				
Oakley	84	35	58	66	-8	0.00	-0.70	0	3.47	82	53	66	
Vicksburg	82	35	56			0.00		0	3.73				
Extreme/Average	84	35	57	67	-10	0.00	-0.77	0	2.79	82	50	65	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	83	38	57	67	-10	0.00	-0.63	0	2.19				
McComb	82	35	61	67	-6	0.00	-0.72	0	1.89				
Extreme/Average	83	35	59	67	-8	0.00	-0.70	0	2.04				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						1.33		1	2.36				
Hattiesburg	88	40	58	67	-9	0.00	-0.66	0	1.38				
Laurel	83	38	56	67	-11	0.00	-0.63	0	1.44				
Meridian	96	36	61	65	-4	0.00	-0.64	0	1.81				
Newton	85	30	53	64	-11	0.00	-0.71	0	1.60	72	52	62	0.10
Extreme/Average	96	30	57	66	-9	0.00	-0.65	0	1.56	72	52	62	0.10
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	85	36	60			0.00		0	0.30				
Biloxi AFB	82	46	62			0.00		0	2.19				
Gulfport	77	44	59	71	-12	0.00	-0.73	0	1.35				
Pascagoula	82	37	58			0.00		0	1.24				
Poplarville	85	42	59	69	-10	0.00	-0.77	0	0.93	84	62	71	0.19
Extreme/Average	85	36	60	70	-10	0.00	-0.67	0	1.20	84	62	71	0.19
State	96	20	56	66	-10	0.00	-0.70	0	1.59	84	40	63	0.15

DFN = Departure from Normal

'E' = Estimated Value.