

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending October 20, 2002

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 20, 2002**. Harvesting of crops accelerated with drier weather conditions across most of the state. Soil moisture was rated 45 percent adequate, and 55 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	Harvested	99	98	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Harvested	42	30	60	79	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	90	82	97	97	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Harvested	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Silage Harvested	98	93	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	70	55	78	81	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	55	48	86	78	6	16	34	43	1
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	100	99	100	99	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	24	15	28	38	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						1	3	15	68	13
Pasture						0	3	24	64	9

County Agent Comments

“Dry weather allowed some harvesting activities to take place last week, but the rain on Saturday stopped that. Rainfall was light, so hopefully growers will get back in the field today.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar County

“Producers have tried to continue harvesting, but the ground is saturated. Some beans are souring in the pod. Cotton took a hit with some flooding in the northern part of the county.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah County

“With a break in the wet weather, harvesting activities resumed until Saturday when it rained again. The cotton did not pick clean and the pickers were knocking some cotton out onto the ground. Cotton yields were off 200 to 350 pounds per acre compared to yields before the rain. Combines were also busy with soybean harvest. Most fields of soybeans had some weather damage. The elevator dockage ran from 3 to 15 percent.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore County

“Armyworms have been terrible in early planted ryegrass and food plots. Fields have been too wet to get tractors in to spray. Larger acreages have been aerial sprayed. The smaller acreages have been sprayed with 4-wheeler sprayers. More rain this weekend has delayed further planting of cool season grazing. Producers are marketing a lot of calves.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah County

“Cooler weather and availability of adequate quantities of good quality late summer grass have enhanced the performance of dairy and beef cattle. Milk production is increasing and heat stress on all classes of livestock is subsiding. Plantings of cool season forages are looking real good and insect pressure is rapidly declining due to cooler weather conditions. Beef calf prices continue to be significantly depressed, giving rise to good opportunities for producers to purchase three to four weight calves for backgrounding on ryegrass to sell on the higher side of the market next spring. Many dairy producers continue exploring their options to exit the dairy business as they face terribly low prices. Currently, the only bright spot in animal agriculture is the good start of cool season pastures.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall County

“Early ryegrass was hit hard by armyworms. Due to wet fields, the ryegrass planting is behind schedule. Cattle are in good condition and hay is in surplus.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones County

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Weather Summary from October 14, 2002 to October 20, 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				63		0.10E	-0.56	1	9.77E				
Cleveland	75	42	57	63	-6	0.60	+0.08	2	11.25				
Tunica	75	45	58	63	-5	0.38	-0.36	1	12.43	69	54	59	0.10
Extreme/Average	75	42	58	63	-5	0.36	-0.33	1	11.15	69	54	59	0.10
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				59		0.10	-0.73	1	14.38				0.11
Memphis	74	45	58	63	-5	0.62	-0.09	1	11.04				
Oxford	75	40	57	60	-3	0.27	-0.57	1	14.39				
Extreme/Average	75	40	57	61	-4	0.33	-0.37	1	13.27				0.11
3. Northeast													
Booneville	74	41	56	60	-4	0.19	-0.53	2	15.50				
Corinth				62		0.10	-0.59	1	13.05				
Iuka	72	35	53	58	-5	0.26	-0.48	2	8.58				
Pontotoc				62		0.36E	-0.34	3	15.16E				
Tupelo	75	42	58	61	-3	0.23	-0.51	2	14.24				
Verona				61		0.30	-0.33	2	14.48				
Extreme/Average	75	35	56	61	-5	0.20	-0.51	2	12.84				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				64									
Rolling Fork	81	43	60	64	-4	0.45	-0.44	2	9.37	76	63	70	0.09
Stoneville	77	43	59	64	-5	0.46	-0.24	2	10.13	73	57	64	0.12
Yazoo City	80	44	61	65	-4	0.03	-0.92	2	11.99				
Extreme/Average	81	43	60	64	-4	0.31	-0.46	2	10.50	76	57	67	0.11
5. Central													
Carthage	80	40	59	63	-4	1.17	+0.46	3	12.57				
Greenwood	79	39	59	64	-5	1.36	+0.59	2	11.94				
Jackson	80	42	61	64	-3	0.79	+0.04	2	9.52				
Winona	76	37	56	59	-3	0.36	-0.34	1	13.32				
Extreme/Average	80	37	59	63	-4	0.92	+0.15	2	11.84				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						2.12	+1.46	2	11.18				
Columbus	75	43	59	63	-4	0.18	-0.51	1	8.80				
State University	76	43	58	63	-5	1.59	+0.87	3	10.67	72	61	66	0.08
Extreme/Average	76	43	59	63	-4	1.30	+0.60	2	10.22	72	61	66	0.08
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	81	44	62	65	-3	0.05	-0.65	1	12.60	70	63	66	
Natchez	82	43	62	67	-5	0.13	-0.74	2	5.03				
Oakley				64		0.22	-0.54	1	11.63				
Vicksburg	79	44	60			0.22		2	12.45				
Extreme/Average	82	43	61	65	-4	0.16	-0.64	2	10.43	70	63	66	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	82	45	62	66	-4	0.00	-0.74	0	10.46				
McComb	82	44	64	66	-2	0.03	-0.67	1	15.06				
Extreme/Average	82	44	63	65	-2	0.02	-0.68	1	12.76				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	81	44	62			2.45		2	12.62				
Hattiesburg	85	44	66	66	0	0.76	-0.00	2	14.92				
Laurel	81	45	61	64	-3	0.09	-0.61	1	11.25				
Meridian	79	42	61	64	-3	1.88	+1.18	2	12.28				
Newton	79	41	60	62	-2	1.03	+0.28	2	13.90	72	56	64	0.09
Extreme/Average	85	41	62	64	-2	1.24	+0.60	2	12.99	72	56	64	0.09
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	83	43	63	67	-4	0.28	-0.37	1	10.10				
BiloxiAFB	81	52	67			1.37		2	10.62				
Gulfport	84	50	69	69	0	0.35	-0.16	1	10.61				
Pascagoula	84	48	65			1.56		2	6.52				
Poplarville	82	46	63	67	-4	0.40	-0.34	2	14.41	79	66	71	0.10
Extreme/Average	84	43	66	68	-2	0.79	+0.16	2	10.45	79	66	71	0.10
State Averages	85	35	60	64	-4	0.61	-0.10	2	11.66	79	54	66	0.10

DFN = Departure from Normal.