

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 29, 2000**. Dry conditions continue to hamper fall planting and rain is needed throughout most of the state. Harvest of row crops is nearing completion in most parts of the state. Soil moisture was rated 70 percent very short, 27 percent short, and 3 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	97	94	96	91	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Harvested	99	97	96	99	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Harvested	94	89	93	85	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	57	35	66	65	34	30	22	14	0
	Emerged	13	8	35	38					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	95	90	91	87	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						11	24	37	25	3
Pasture						49	27	17	8	0

County Agent Comments

“Cotton and soybean harvesting are progressing ahead of normal due to low moisture and ideal field conditions. Ponds for livestock water are the lowest in decades. Pastures are pathetic.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

“Continued dry conditions have delayed wheat planting and emergence of wheat previously planted. Many area ponds and streams are dry, and beef producers are having to water their cattle.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn County

“A small amount of very low quality hay (mostly weeds) is still being baled in anticipation of serious shortages. We have planted more winter grazing than ever before, but very little of it is up to a stand because of the drought. Farmers are continuing to sell off cattle.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Dry weather is taking its toll on young ryegrass. If rain is not received soon, many pastures will be lost. Hay supplies could be extremely short this winter if no winter grazing is available. Beetles are destroying young pine trees at an alarming rate. This is the most devastating drought that I have ever seen.”

— Richard Hay, Amite County

“This is the worse drought experienced by many people who are in their 80's and 90's. Winter feed is going out to livestock and we expect supplies to play out very early. Non-irrigated crops are yielding below payback levels. Of course, the price is reflecting a major part of that problem.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“Where possible, many producers are breaking the dry, hard soil to enhance water infiltration should we ever get a rain. Several new irrigation wells are being drilled with others being planned.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore County

“Producers will soon be prepared to plant in the spring. Harvest is virtually over and much of the spring tillage work in the Delta has been completed.”

— Tim W. Pepper, Yazoo County

“Winter grazing and wheat fields are still in dire need for a good, general slow rain.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison County

Weather Summary from October 23, 2000 to October 29, 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					60	0.00	-0.77	0	0.10				0.23
Cleveland	88	55	71			0.00		0	0.24				
Tunica	85	58	72	59	+13	0.00	-0.83	0	0.08	53	47	50	0.12
Extreme/Average	88	55	72	60	+12	0.00	-0.82	0	0.14	53	47	50	0.14
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	87	45	67	57	+10	0.00	-0.89	0	0.10	79	61	74	0.15
Memphis	86	59	74	59	+15	0.00	-0.75	0	0.45				
Oxford	88	54	71	57	+14	0.00	-0.89	0	0.10				
Extreme/Average	88	45	70	58	+12	0.00	-0.82	0	0.10	79	61	74	0.15
3. Northeast													
Booneville	85	56	70	57	+13	0.00	-0.85	0	0.00				
Corinth	85	52	69	58	+11	0.00	-0.82	0	0.00				
Iuka						0.00		0	0.00				
Pontotoc				58		0.00	-0.78	0	0.44				0.10
Tupelo	86	54	71	59	+12	0.00	-0.81	0	0.55				
Verona	90	52	71			0.00		0	0.35	85	67	68	0.16
Extreme/Average	90	52	70	58	+12	0.00	-0.83	0	0.22	85	67	68	0.15
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	88	51	71	61	+10	0.00	-0.92	0	0.62	86	75	80	
Greenwood	87	52	71	61	+10	0.00	-0.89	0	0.25				
Rolling Fork	88	56	72	61	+11	0.00	-0.87	0	0.31	86	70	78	0.13
Stoneville	88	55	71	61	+10	0.00	-0.82	0	0.61	82	68	69	0.18
Yazoo City	85	54	71	62	+9	0.00	-0.92	0	1.74				
Extreme/Average	88	51	71	61	+10	0.00	-0.88	0	0.71	86	68	76	0.15
5. Central													
Carthage	86	50	68	60	+8	0.00	-0.82	0	0.11				
Jackson	85	52	69	61	+8	0.00	-0.80	0	1.46				
Winona	86	48	67	58	+9	0.00	-0.81	0	0.72				
Extreme/Average	86	48	68	60	+8	0.00	-0.84	0	0.76				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	84	57	71			0.00	-0.72	0	1.11				
Columbus	84	54	69			0.00		0	0.69				
State University				60		0.00	-0.75	0	1.66				0.13
Extreme/Average	84	54	70	60	+10	0.00	-0.79	0	1.15				0.13
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	85	54	70			0.00		0	1.08	83	64	75	
Natchez	91	50	70	64	+6	0.00	-0.91	0	1.42				
Oakley	87	52	71	61	+10	0.00	-0.83	0	1.75	86	66	77	
Vicksburg	85	55	70			0.00		0	1.36				
Extreme/Average	91	50	70	63	+7	0.00	-0.87	0	1.40	86	64	76	
8. South-Central													
Columbia				63		0.00	-0.72	0	1.94				
McComb	86	52	69	63	+6	0.00	-0.78	0	1.20				
Extreme/Average	86	52	69	62	+7	0.00	-0.76	0	1.57				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.00		0	2.13				
Hattiesburg	87	54	71	63	+8	0.00	-0.79	0	1.28				
Laurel	86	51	69	62	+7	0.00	-0.66	0	1.32				
Meridian	87	49	68	61	+7	0.00	-0.72	0	1.39				
Newton	87	47	68	60	+8	0.00	-0.77	0	1.20	66	63	64	0.15
Extreme/Average	87	47	69	62	+7	0.00	-0.73	0	1.30	66	63	64	0.15
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	89	48	68			0.00		0	0.30				
BiloxiAFB	88	59	73			0.00		0	2.01				
Gulfport	84	54	70	66	+4	0.00	-0.66	0	1.13				
Pascagoula	87	46	67			0.00		0	0.80				
Poplarville	86	55	71	65	+6	0.05	-0.72	1	0.63	85	5	71	0.16
Extreme/Average	89	46	70	65	+5	0.01	-0.65	0	0.97	85	5	71	0.16
State	91	45	70	61	+9	0.00	-0.80	0	0.90	86	5	70	0.14

DFN = Departure from Normal.

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