

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending December 10, 2000**. Temperatures were cooler than normal across most of the state. The main farming activities were planting wheat and feeding cattle. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 28 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	Planted	98	95	98	99	0	7	49	38	6
	Emerged	92	83	88	95					
Cattle						6	11	38	41	4

County Agent Comments

“Most producers are licking their wounds from the 2000 crop and are making plans for a more profitable year in 2001. Minor adjustments will be made in crop acres depending on profit potential.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

“Winter wheat for grazing is very late and producers won't get much use from it until it warms up early this spring. Hay supplies are low at this date and it is going to be an expensive winter for cattlemen.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“The main activity now is feeding cattle. Farmers will fall short of hay if we have a normal winter. Deep soil moisture is still very short, and the clock is running with not enough rain falling to recharge for next year's crop.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Surface moisture is acceptable but subsurface moisture is still extremely low. Cattlemen are concerned about winter hay inventory and the prospects for winter grazing. Although improved over one month ago, growth is still slow on fescue and ryegrass pastures. The anticipated icy weather forecast for midweek could put an added strain on low hay supplies and stop winter grazing for a period. All field crop work is completed and producers are hoping for a better year in 2001.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha County

“Forage crops are really beginning to become well established; many farms will be able to begin limited grazing this week.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene County

“We have wrapped up wheat planting and have just a little winter grazing to finish planting. We need moderate temperatures to get these established.”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada County

“The warmer weather over the weekend helped winter grazing. Many producers fertilized grazing last week. The upcoming arctic cold front will cause producers to feed even more of their limited hay supplies.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah County

“Subsoil moisture has still not been recharged after the last two years of drought. We need rain on a regular basis until the planting season.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

Weather Summary from December 4, 2000 to December 10, 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				46									
Cleveland	57	24	39			0.00		0	7.20				
Tunica	54	25	40	45	-5	0.00	-1.31	0	6.01	41	22	33	
Extreme/Average	57	24	40	46	-6	0.00	-1.39	0	6.61	41	22	33	
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				44		0.00	-1.37	0					
Memphis	60	25	41	46	-5	0.00	-1.40	0	3.99				
Oxford	62	20	38	44	-6	0.00	-1.39	0	4.88				
Extreme/Average	62	20	40	46	-6	0.00	-1.37	0	4.44				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	59	26	38	44	-6	0.00	-1.40	0	3.59				
Corinth	59	23	39	45	-6	0.00	-1.31	0					
Iuka	58	20	36			0.00		0	3.16				
Pontotoc	59	22	38	45	-7	0.00	-1.40	0	4.09	48	42	45	0.10
Tupelo	61	22	41	46	-5	0.00	-1.40	0	4.34				
Verona	62	23	40			0.00		0	4.30	51	38	43	
Extreme/Average	62	20	39	46	-7	0.00	-1.40	0	3.90	51	38	44	0.10
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	62	25	42	49	-7	0.00	-1.37	0	5.39	58	44	49	
Greenwood	70	24	43	48	-5	0.00	-1.34	0	5.31				
Rolling Fork	61	26	41	48	-7	0.00	-1.26	0	1.92	54	41	47	0.01
Stoneville	62	26	40	48	-8	0.00	-1.40	0	6.10	53	38	44	
Yazoo City	62	26	40	50	-10	0.00	-1.50	0	4.89				
Extreme/Average	70	24	41	49	-8	0.00	-1.43	0	4.72	58	38	47	0.01
5. Central													
Carthage	67	23	42	49	-7	0.01	-1.33	1	2.07				
Jackson	70	25	44	50	-6	0.00	-1.33	0	2.93				
Winona	63	20	38	46	-8	0.00	-1.43	0	5.91				
Extreme/Average	70	20	42	49	-7	0.00	-1.40	0	3.64				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						0.00	-1.23	0	3.11				
Columbus	61	23	42			0.00		0	4.47				
State University	64	23	41	48	-7	0.00	-1.31	0	4.60	50	41	45	0.14
Extreme/Average	64	23	42	48	-6	0.00	-1.33	0	3.86	50	41	45	0.14
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	67	28	46			0.02		1	4.09	63	39	50	
Natchez	70	25	45	53	-8	0.20	-1.36	1	5.27				
Oakley	72	25	43	50	-7	0.00	-1.33	0	3.36	57	39	48	
Vicksburg	63	25	41			0.04		1	4.24				
Extreme/Average	72	25	44	52	-8	0.07	-1.37	1	4.24	63	39	49	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	68	28	46	52	-6	0.11	-1.40	1	4.34				
McComb	70	27	47	52	-5	0.20	-1.26	2	4.00				
Extreme/Average	70	27	46	52	-6	0.16	-1.28	2	4.34				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.07		2					
Hattiesburg	61	26	45	52	-7	0.05	-1.35	1	7.51				
Laurel	69	26	45	51	-6	0.11	-1.24	2	4.30				
Meridian	66	23	45	50	-5	0.00	-1.38	0	4.34				
Newton	67	22	43	49	-6	0.02	-1.31	1	4.55	53	38	43	0.07
Extreme/Average	69	22	44	51	-7	0.05	-1.28	1	5.18	53	38	43	0.07
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	74	26	50			0.02		1	9.50				
BiloxiAFB	68	32	52			0.03		1	7.69				
Gulfport	67	31	50	56	-6	0.03	-1.22	1	9.51				
Pascagoula	73	28	51			0.01		1	8.55				
Poplarville	69	28	47	54	-7	0.05	-1.36	1	6.39	64	48	54	4.07
Extreme/Average	74	26	50	55	-5	0.03	-1.23	1	8.47	64	48	54	4.07
State	74	20	43	49	-6	0.03	-1.35	1	4.94	64	22	45	0.85

DFN = Departure from Normal.

'E' = Estimated Value.