



# CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 1

## 2011 Crop Season Begins with Much Needed Moisture

Data tables reflect the week ending: April 3, 2011

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	5-Yr Avg. 2010	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	30	N/A	29	34
Corn Emerged	11	N/A	0	12
N/A =Not Available				

### CROP/LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Crop	Percent				
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
Corn	0	0	28	72	0
Winter Wheat	0	2	20	66	12
Livestock	0	7	29	59	5
Pasture & Range	4	9	33	49	5

### TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Percent			
		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
District 10	1.5	0	1	53	46
District 20	1.3	0	1	38	61
District 30	1.0	0	7	71	22
District 40	4.0	1	9	77	13
District 50	5.2	13	32	52	3
District 60	4.7	4	29	52	15
State: Current Week	3.1	2	12	54	32
State: Previous Week	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

**General:** This past week brought rain showers across most of the state with the rain ceasing over the weekend. David Derrick, Regional Extension Agent, stated that it was far too wet this past week for any field work to take place. Donald Mann, Jackson County Executive Director, stated that his county received over 11 inches of rain in March which delayed most field work. The rain also caused the Jackson county to go from being abnormally dry to extremely wet. In Elmore county, 2.3 inches of rain was received at the service center this past week. Jim Todd, Mobile County Extension Coordinator, stated that it has been very dry, and the light rains this past week are providing some needed moisture. Karen McDonald, County Executive Director stated that rainfall amounts are below normal for Monroe County.

Daytime highs for the week ranged from 84 degrees in Mobile, to 57 degrees in Huntsville. Overnight lows for the week ranged from 37 degrees in Huntsville, to 64 degrees in Ozark.

**Small Grains:** Thomas Atkinson, Madison County Executive Director, and Susan McDonald, Morgan County Executive Director, stated that wheat was looking great, but is in need of some warmer and drier weather. Tim Malone, Marion and Winston County Executive Director stated that wheat was also looking good and it will stay that way as long as the state can avoid a hard freeze. Unfortunately, Donald Mann, Jackson County Executive Director, stated that the excessive moisture this past week has hurt the wheat crop. Cathy Blackburn, Chambers and Lee County Executive Director, stated that the winter wheat in her area is very short and did not emerge like it should have, but thanks to the rain and warmer weather this past week, it is greening up.

**Cotton/Peanut/Soybeans:** Randall Armstrong, Lauderdale County Extension Coordinator, stated that the extremely wet conditions limited all outside work. Mr. Atkinson stated that very little corn has been planted in his area, and wet conditions have halted any field work as well as delayed corn planting. Cathy Blackburn, and Carol Gay, Clay and Randolph County Executive Director, stated that they were not aware of any corn being planted in their areas this past week, but some field work has started to take place. Alfred Jackson, Lowndes County Extension Coordinator, stated that nearly all of the row crops in West Alabama have yet to be planted, and that most farmers are gearing up for the season. Karen McDonald stated that the corn that has been planted in Monroe County is in good condition so far.

**Pasture/Hay/Livestock:** Recent rains and warmer weather this past week caused pastures to begin growing. According to Ms. McDonald and T.H. Gregg, Regional Extension Agent, pastures remain in fair condition and are now beginning to improve as they respond to the moisture and warmer temperatures. Ms. Blackburn and Mr. Malone stated that cattle producers are still feeding heavily in their areas; however the grass in the pastures has started to come out to where the cattle are not spending the day at the hay ring. Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent, stated that the warmer weather has winter grazing in good condition, however warm season perennial forages have not yet begun to grow as the cool wet conditions this past week slowed summer pasture green-up. Producers have been busy controlling winter weeds such as thistle and buttercup in addition to fertilizing and liming operations. Alfred Jackson stated that livestock sales are up because prices are favorable in the beef market, and some small farmers are upgrading the quality of their herd. Karen McDonald stated that winter grazing was looking good with the exception of high winds a few days ago laying some of it over.

To Report Recipients:

In an effort to provide more relevant as well as cost effective information, our office is in the process of reviewing the contents and format of this report. Although the crop progress and condition tables will remain, we will no longer publish the temperature and precipitation summary data in this report. We are considering alternatives that reflect topsoil moisture and drought conditions in the state. For comments or suggestions, please contact me at 334-279-3555.

Bill Weaver



USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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