



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Tornadoes Prolonged Planting & Hay Harvesting

Data tables reflect the week ending: May 8, 2011

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	5-Yr
				Avg.
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Planted	86	78	97	94
Corn Emerged	64	54	85	80
Cotton Planted	28	11	42	44
Peanuts Planted	10	3	10	18
Soybeans Planted	4	2	23	26
Winter Wheat Headed	88	81	77	42
Hay Harvested—1st Cutting	31	15	11	14

Burns said vegetable crops have started out fine, but strawberries are having some quality problems due to a wet spring.

The average mean temperature for the week ranged from 60.6 F in Pinson, to 69.1 F in Mobile. The total precipitation ranged from 0.02 inches in Mobile, to 1.03 inches in Muscle Shoals. Carol Gay, FSA CED, said Clay and Randolph counties received a few showers, but are still behind on their rainfall. Jeffrey Smith, FSA CED for Coosa, Elmore and Tallapoosa Counties, Kevan Tucker, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) County Extension Coordinator (CEC), Carolyn Bradley, FSA Program Technician for Conecuh County, William Kelly, ACES CEC for Escambia County, Jim Todd, ACES CEC, Donna Senn, FSA CED in Barbour County, Karen McDonald, FSA CED in Monroe County, and Bobby Beasley, FSA CED, all said that conditions are dry, leaving seed to sit in the ground and wait on rain, or waiting to be planted. If planted seed does not receive a decent rain soon, it will rot.

CROP / LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor Poor Fair Good Exc.				
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	1	5	39	54	1
Cotton	0	2	54	43	1
Peanuts	0	0	36	64	0
Soybeans	0	0	12	88	0
Winter Wheat	1	6	23	59	11
Livestock	0	2	21	64	13
Pasture & Range	1	9	20	58	12

Small Grains: Tim Malone, FSA CED for Marion and Winston Counties, said most of the wheat crop is still standing, however it may start to have some fungus problems because of the rain. Susan McDonald, FSA CED for Morgan County, and Elizabeth Farmer, FSA CED in Cherokee County, said there has been some damage to the wheat crop from heavy rain, wind, hail, and many fields are scattered with debris. Donald Mann, FSA CED, said approximately 300 acres of wheat are damaged in Jackson County. Rudy Yates, ACES Regional Extension Agent (REA), said wheat is suffering from army worms and a little disease in his region. Brandon Dillard, ACES REA, said the harvest of wheat and oats is underway in his region.

Corn/Cotton/Peanut/Soybeans: Malone said corn planting is at a stand still because of excess moisture, while Kelley said corn is starting to wilt due to the lack of moisture. As of last week, Malone and McDonald said cotton and soybeans have not been planted in their areas. Don Moore, ACES Director of the Alabama Experiment Station in Autauga County, said thrips are stunting any cotton not seed-treated, and insecticide over-sprays are not giving adequate control. Todd said peanut planting began in Mobile County last week, but had to stop after four days of planting due to the lack of soil moisture.

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days	Very	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Suitable	Short			
<i>Percent</i>					
District 10	2.9	0	0	58	42
District 20	3.9	0	0	68	32
District 30	5.0	0	2	80	18
District 40	5.3	14	25	60	1
District 50	6.2	12	59	29	0
District 60	5.8	26	40	34	0
State: Current Week	4.8	9	19	54	18
State: Previous Week	4.6	4	19	47	30

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Malone said hay land and pasture land took a beating in the tornado as there are trees down and debris in almost every field. Jackson said pastures continue to look good and ample grazing is available for livestock. Jack Tatum, ACES REA, said ryegrass is being cut at this time and Bahia and Bermuda grass has greened up, but the cool nights have really kept it from growing heavily. Brenda Glover, ACES REA, said producers are trying to remove debris from hayfields so they can begin cutting hay. Mann said hay harvest began last week in Jackson County. Tucker said pastures and hayfields are showing signs of water stress. Todd said pastures are becoming very dry and many hay producers will miss their first cutting of the year. Anthony Wiggins, ACES REA, said conditions have been great for harvesting hay, but the southwest region of the state is in much need of rain. Malone said there are reports of chicken houses destroyed, as well as reports of livestock either dead or missing. Burns said poultry took the greatest agriculture loss with a high loss of birds and houses. McDonald said Morgan County had one dairy that was heavily damaged, and Alex Brand, FSA PT, said one dairy in Marengo County was also heavily damaged by a tornado.

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Thomas Atkinson, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director (CED) for Madison County, reported fields still contained debris, and the extent of damage is yet to be determined. Zachary Burns, FSA CED for Marshall County, said agriculture lands, structures, equipment, forest land, and animals all took a great loss during the storms two weeks ago. Alfred Jackson, County Agent for the Tuskegee Cooperative Extension Program, said things are somewhat getting back to normal as many in the Blackbelt had power restored last week.

Name	City	State	Total Precipitation Value (in.)	Average Mean Temperature Value (°F)
Anniston Metro Ap	Anniston	AL	0.62	62.2
Bankhead Lock & Dam	Bankhead	AL	0.65	64.1
Birmingham Area	Birmingham	AL	0.52	64.0
Gadsden	Gadsden	AL	0.8	63.9
Gainesville Lock	Gainesville	AL	0.53	63.8
Huntsville Area	Huntsville	AL	0.87	62.6
Mobile Regional Ap	Mobile	AL	0.02	69.1
Montgomery Area	Montgomery	AL	0.49	65.2
Muscle Shoals Ap	Muscle Shoals	AL	1.03	65.2
Pinson	Pinson	AL	0.57	60.6

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	52.58	47.42	38.01	17.11	1.39	0.00
Last Week (04/26/2011 map)	52.58	47.42	38.01	16.84	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/01/2011 map)	15.22	84.78	57.83	28.77	1.82	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	17.47	82.53	55.26	29.34	1.82	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	3.64	96.36	66.34	25.17	4.40	0.00
One Year Ago (04/27/2010 map)	61.32	38.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

