



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 7

Dry Conditions Stress Crops & Pastures

Data tables reflect the week ending: **May 15, 2011**

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	95	86	100	97
Corn Emerged	76	64	91	87
Cotton Planted	50	28	60	63
Peanuts Planted	29	10	15	32
Soybeans Planted	15	4	37	37
Soybeans Emerged	7	1	0	9
Winter Wheat Headed	95	88	88	55
Hay Harvested – 1 st Cutting	50	31	21	21

CROP / LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	0	6	44	49	1
Cotton	0	6	54	39	1
Peanuts	0	2	51	47	0
Soybeans	0	0	63	36	1
Winter Wheat	1	8	24	57	10
Livestock	0	4	22	63	11
Pasture & Range	2	12	23	49	14

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	4.9	0	0	75	25
District 20	5.2	0	0	82	18
District 30	6.4	7	32	58	3
District 40	6.1	16	36	45	3
District 50	6.2	27	50	22	1
District 60	6.4	44	49	7	0
State: Current Week	5.8	16	25	49	10
State: Previous	4.8	9	19	54	18

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: As a result of the recent tornadoes, planting has been hampered due to debris in the fields and excessive moisture, said Shane Seay, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director (CED) in Limestone County and Susan McDonald, FSA CED in Morgan County. Oscar Wiggins, FSA CED, said Pickens County is behind on rainfall. Don Moore, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) Alabama Experiment Station Director, reported hot and dry conditions with no rain received at the

service center in Prattville. Alfred Jackson, Tuskegee Cooperative Extension Program County Agent, said the Blackbelt has been cool, windy and overcast, which is not the ideal conditions for plant growth. Jim Todd, ACES County Extension Coordinator (CEC), said planting is at a standstill and non-irrigated vegetables are hurting due to the lack of moisture in Mobile County. Karen McDonald, FSA CED, said the drought situation for Monroe County is critical, and Maureen Aaron, FSA CED in Baldwin County, said planting has been delayed due to lack of rainfall. Brandon Dillard, ACES Regional Extension Agent (REA), said rain moved across the Wiregrass this past week, which was enough to get planters back into the field for now.

Small Grains: Thomas Atkinson, FSA CED, said due to recent storms and heavy rain, much of the wheat crop is lying down and a slow harvest is anticipated in Madison County. Rudy Yates, ACES REA, said wheat harvesting has started, but the moisture is not at a level to be able to proceed for some producers in the western counties of District 40. James Jones Jr., ACES CEC, said small grain harvest has begun in Henry County.

Corn/Cotton/Peanut/Soybeans: Kelvin Veal, FSA CED in Clarke County, reported wind damage in the corn crop from the tornadoes. In the western counties of District 40, Yates reported peanuts, cotton, and some soybeans being planted. Yates also reported insect pressure (sugarcane beetle, cutworm, chinch bugs) being observed in some corn fields causing replanting. Jones Jr. said cotton and peanut planting continues with little to no moisture present. Bobby Beasley, FSA CED, said Henry County needs some rain to ensure the establishment of peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and hay production.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Veal said pastures and hay fields throughout Clarke County have storm debris scattered, making it difficult for cattle and first hay cutting. T.H. Gregg, ACES REA, said most pastures are growing rapidly in Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, and Jackson Counties. Carol Gay, FSA CED, said cattle prices seem to have started to drop, and the first hay cutting reports vary across Clay and Randolph Counties. Jack Tatum, ACES REA, reported that plenty of hay was cut and stored in the past ten days, but rain is needed for a second cutting in the western half of District 30. Henry Dorough, ACES REA, said hot temperatures and dry conditions have begun to show signs of forage stress, however conditions have been ideal for hay production in the Eastern half of District 30 and the Southern half of District 20. Jackson said most areas in the Blackbelt have cut hay. However, Kevan Tucker, ACES CEC, said first hay cuttings have been below normal levels, and most pastures and hay fields are suffering from lack of rainfall in Clarke County. Brenda Glover, ACES REA, said most of the first hay cutting is done, but pastures and crops are in need of rain in the western part of District 40. Karen McDonald, Dorothy Chavers, FSA Alabama Program Specialist, and Jeff Knotts, FSA CED, all said producers are beginning to feed livestock due to the lack of pasture growth in Bullock, Crenshaw, Monroe, and Pike Counties.

Southeast Regional Climate Center
Values for Monday, May 9, 2011, to Sunday, May 15, 2011
(7 days)
<http://www.sercc.com/perspectivesmap>

Name	City	State	Total Precipitation Value (in.)	Average Mean Temperature Value (°F)
Anniston Metro Ap	Anniston	AL	0.21	70.6
Atmore	Atmore	AL	0.68	73.6
Bankhead Lock & Dam	Bankhead	AL	1.13	72.4
Birmingham Area	Birmingham	AL	0.4	71.3
Centreville 6 Sw	Centreville	AL	0.09	69.1
Enterprise 4 W	Enterprise	AL	0.9	74.6
Evergreen	Evergreen	AL	0.62	73.1
Gainesville Lock	Gainesville	AL	0.34	71.0
Geneva #2	Geneva	AL	0.95	75.7
Greenville	Greenville	AL	71.6	0.47
Guntersville	Guntersville	AL	0.45	70.0
Hamilton 3 S	Hamilton	AL	1.98	68.3
Huntsville Intl Ap	Madison	AL	0.2	71.3
Mobile Area	Mobile	AL	0.08	74.6
Montgomery Area	Montgomery	AL	0.83	73.1
Moulton 2	Moulton	AL	0.77	69.2
Muscle Shoals Ap	Muscle Shoals	AL	1.12	71.5
Scottsboro	Scottsboro	AL	0.73	69.6
Sylacauga 4 Ne	Sylacauga	AL	0	69.4

U.S. Drought Monitor, May 10, 2011

National Weather Service
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm>

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	52.58	47.42	38.00	28.61	1.39	0.00
Last Week (05/03/2011 map)	52.58	47.42	38.01	17.11	1.39	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/08/2011 map)	17.68	82.32	57.83	23.07	0.00	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 (05/04/2010 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

