

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



BILL WEAVER, DIRECTOR
USDA/NASS ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

JOHN McMILLAN, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AG. AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578
Visit our website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/al>

1 (800) 832-4181

RELEASED: September 26, 2011- 3:00 P.M.

Issue 26

Scattered Rain Hampered Harvesting

Data tables reflect the week ending: **September 25, 2011**

CROP PROGRESS

| Crop | This Week | Last Week | 2010 | 5-Yr Avg. |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|
| | Percent | | | |
| Corn Harvested | 83 | 75 | 21 | 61 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 69 | 60 | 84 | 74 |
| Cotton Harvested | 4 | 1 | 21 | 12 |
| Peanuts Dug | 17 | 9 | 24 | 14 |
| Peanuts Combined | 9 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 50 | 38 | 65 | 65 |
| Soybeans Harvested | 6 | 3 | 11 | 13 |
| Winter Wheat Planted | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 |

N/A – Not Applicable

CROP / LIVESTOCK CONDITION

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Exc. |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Corn | 10 | 15 | 34 | 37 | 4 |
| Cotton | 7 | 21 | 37 | 34 | 1 |
| Peanuts | 7 | 19 | 38 | 33 | 3 |
| Soybeans | 4 | 12 | 35 | 46 | 3 |
| Livestock | 2 | 10 | 34 | 49 | 5 |
| Pasture & Range | 12 | 25 | 34 | 27 | 2 |

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

| | Days Suitable | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | | Percent | | | |
| District 10 | 4.8 | 0 | 4 | 93 | 3 |
| District 20 | 4.1 | 1 | 23 | 56 | 20 |
| District 30 | 4.6 | 6 | 54 | 40 | 0 |
| District 40 | 5.3 | 13 | 39 | 46 | 2 |
| District 50 | 5.9 | 7 | 27 | 66 | 0 |
| District 60 | 5.4 | 39 | 30 | 29 | 2 |
| State: Current Week | 5.0 | 12 | 25 | 58 | 5 |
| State: Previous | 6.1 | 15 | 27 | 54 | 4 |

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Scattered rains from the week help alleviate some drought areas of the state resulting in some pasture lands

appearing to die out showed signs of slight improvement. Despite the fewer days worked throughout the state, growers were able to continue harvesting corn and soybeans. Corn harvested continued to advance while soybean harvested was slightly behind last year's progress.

Corn/Cotton/Peanut/Soybeans: Charles Burmester, Auburn University Agronomist in North Alabama, stated only a little cotton has been harvested in Northern Alabama. More defoliation occurred late last week as sunshine returned and temperatures warmed. This area of the state was two weeks behind normal as far as defoliation and harvest. Some late cotton still needs warm temperatures to mature upper bolls. A shortage of some defoliants is also hampering the defoliation progress. Corn harvest is still continuing especially in the eastern half of north Alabama. Corn yields were hurt by the late June drought but yields have been higher than expected. **Jeffery Smith, CED FSA**, stated cotton harvest is underway but the rain suspended most picking until later in the week, some area defoliated cotton may have suffered because of the heavy downpours. Early estimates of cotton yields were 500-700 pounds per acre. **Dale Monks, Auburn University Agronomist in Central Alabama**, commented that cotton and soybean crops in much of Central and South Alabama have been hammered by the dry weather in August. At a time when the crops were at a critical stage of boll and pod fill, rainfall was sparse at best. Much of the cotton crop has defoliated itself due to the heavy nutrient demands from the bolls. Soybeans were a real mix of good and poor potential due to the scattered rainfall. Early-maturing soybeans in some areas of central counties have cut as much as 30 bushels per acre; however, some will not be anywhere close to that. The final outcome on cotton remains to be seen as producers have begun defoliation and limited harvest has taken place. **Kris Balkcom, Headland Cooperative Extension**, commented that the peanut crop continued to show signs of drought as yields range from 1000 to 4000 pounds per acre. Early planted peanuts were yielding 2,500 to 4,000 pounds per acre. Late planted peanuts or late May and early June were yielding anywhere be 1,000 to 2,500 pounds per acre. Several farmers were concerned about aflatoxin which causes peanuts to be call peanuts to be classed as Seg. 3.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: Jeffery Smith also stated pasture conditions improved slightly with the rainfall. **Brenda Glover, REA ACES**, comment that their area had a little rain at the beginning of the week and the hay crops are going to be short. **Carol Gay, CED FSA**, indicated that milder temperatures and scattered showers were welcomed, yet topsoil moisture still short. Grass that didn't die was improving.

| Name | City | State | Average Mean Temperature Value (°F) | Total Precipitation Value (in.) |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Birmingham Area | Birmingham | AL | 71.1 | 3.55 |
| Huntsville Area | Huntsville | AL | 68.6 | 0.30 |
| Mobile Area | Mobile | AL | 77.3 | 2.29 |
| Montgomery Area | Montgomery | AL | 76.8 | 2.91 |

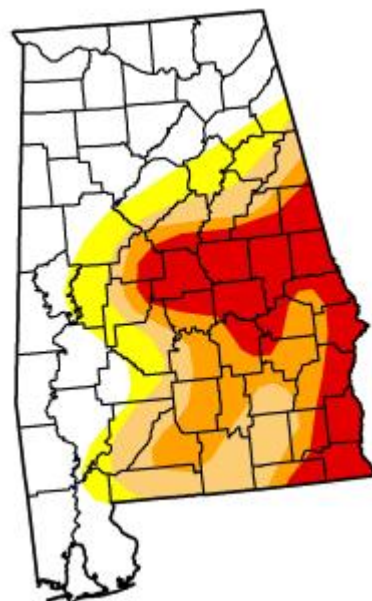
U.S. Drought Monitor, September 20, 2011

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

| | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
| Current | 45.08 | 54.92 | 44.35 | 30.60 | 17.37 | 0.00 |
| Last Week (09/13/2011 map) | 46.26 | 53.74 | 42.31 | 30.60 | 17.37 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago (06/21/2011 map) | 3.96 | 96.04 | 54.68 | 41.92 | 24.95 | 11.70 |
| 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 (09/14/2010 map) | 13.92 | 86.08 | 34.22 | 11.27 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Intensity:

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



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 36124
PERMIT NO. G-38

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
P. O. Box 240578
Montgomery, Alabama 36124-0578
Official Business
Penalty For Private Use, \$300
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED