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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending July 6, 2003

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WEATHER SUMMARY: The week of June 29 through July 6th was warm and wet in most parts of Florida. High temperatures in the 90s were recorded at almost all stations, with Umatilla reaching 94 degrees and Immokalee, Pierson, and Lake Alfred all exceeding 93 degrees. The high temperature for the week in Pensacola was only 86 degrees. Pensacola received the most rainfall, over 10 inches, due to heavy rains from Tropical Storm Bill moving through southern Alabama. At the other end of the State, Miami recorded over 5 inches of rain for the week. Many other stations recorded less than an inch of rain, with Tampa, Jacksonville, Alachua, Dover, and Homestead reporting less than one half inch.

FIELD CROPS: Many fields in the Panhandle have received abundant rain, almost too much. Some areas cannot put up hay yet. Some field work has been suspended this week due to the rain. There is some increased concern about insect and disease problems, and spraying schedules have been tightened up to work around the showers. Topsoil and subsoil moisture are adequate to surplus across the State. Silage is being harvested in the northern Peninsula. The condition of the peanut crop is good to excellent, with 20% rated fair, 40% good, and 40% excellent. The crop is 75% pegged, compared to 50% last week and 62% last year. The 5-year average at this point of the season is 57% pegged. In St. John's County, cover crops of corn and sorghum have been planted.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Percent					
Very short	1	1	1	0	0	5
Short	5	5	7	5	6	11
Adequate	51	54	61	52	58	54
Surplus	43	40	31	43	36	30

VEGETABLES: In the Panhandle, melon harvest is continuing. Harvesting in Hillsborough County and surrounding areas is also continuing as growers are getting back into the fields after

some very heavy rains. Other vegetables being harvested include eggplant, tomatoes, and potatoes.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Most pasture is in good condition in each of the areas of the State. Some pasture in the Panhandle and central areas is in poor to fair condition due to excessive rainfall. Haying is active when the weather permits. Statewide, the condition of the cattle is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	0	0
Fair	5	10	5	10
Good	85	75	90	80
Excellent	5	10	5	10

CITRUS: Weather patterns are near normal for summer in the citrus belt. The first of the week, Tropical Storm Bill moved up the Gulf providing bands of rain over western and central Florida. Rainfall for the week totaled from traces in southern areas to over 2.5 inches in some central and east coast areas. Some lower interior areas were able to dry out from the previous week's heavy rainfall. Trees statewide are in excellent condition from the abundant and timely rainfall. Young trees in many groves have an abundance of new flushed growth. Older trees are also showing new flush. Harvest of Valencias and grapefruit is complete for the season. Only small, fresh squeeze plants will continue to operate through the summer. Growers and caretakers continue routine summer practices of mowing or discing with dead tree removal and resetting active in groves where necessary. Summer oil sprays and insecticides are being applied to fresh fruit crops where necessary.

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In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.