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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending August 8, 2004

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Heavy showers brought significant showers to the Central and Southern Peninsula areas during the week of August 1 through 7. Bradenton, Daytona Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami all received over five inches of rainfall. Rainfall totaled from hardly any precipitation at Live Oak to over ten inches at Tampa. Daytime highs were in the upper 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures for the week averaged from one degree to three degrees above normal in major cities while Tampa and Miami were two degrees below normal.

FIELD CROPS: Some areas in the Panhandle and Northern Peninsula experienced short to adequate topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies due to the lack of precipitation as well as high temperatures, causing some peanuts in Jackson County to show drought stress. Most soil moisture supplies in the Southern Peninsula localities are adequate to surplus with adequate supplies reported for the central counties. Peanut condition is rated 15% fair, 50% good, and 35% excellent. Breaks from the rain allowed most growers to resume spraying pesticides. In Washington County, hay harvesting is resuming at a rapid pace. Corn is showing moisture stress in Leon County. Cotton remains in good condition. Tobacco harvesting is active in Taylor County.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	1	5	1	0	5	0
Short	10	15	2	9	10	3
Adequate	74	75	49	75	80	53
Surplus	15	5	48	16	5	44

VEGETABLES: Field preparations for fall crop planting continues actively in southern Peninsula areas. Dade County producers continue to cut okra.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Pasture condition in all areas ranges from fair to excellent with most pasture in good shape. Good soil moisture and growing temperatures are promoting grass growth. In the central areas, there is some damage from armyworms in pastures. Statewide, the condition of cattle is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	0	5	0	0
Fair	15	25	10	20
Good	75	50	75	55
Excellent	10	20	15	25

CITRUS: Wet weather over the state for the second week was very welcome as unsettled weather conditions provided scattered but heavy rainfall in most areas. High temperatures reached the low 90s on several days but were moderate most days. Slow moving but heavy thunderstorms developed over wide areas with west coast areas receiving heavy rains on several days. Bradenton reported over seven inches for the week. East coast areas also reported over four inches for the week with all interior areas reporting lesser amounts. Rainfall amounts are so variable that although reporting stations may report minimal amounts, areas nearby may receive more. Growers in most areas report trees in better condition because of the recent rainfall. Cultural practices continue, including fertilizations, hedging, mechanical and chemical weed control, and resetting of young trees. Summer sprays are being applied to crops designated for fresh use as rainfall permits.

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