WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 12, 2005

WEATHER SUMMARY: Tropical Storm Arlene brought rain to most areas during the week of June 6 through 12 with the storm moving north through the Gulf of Mexico just off the west coast and making landfall near Pensacola. The clash of the Atlantic and Gulf sea breezes also produced thunderstorms during the week. Heavy rains from the storms totaled from about a third inch at Kenansville to over nine inches in Apopka. Most localities received from an inch to four inches of rain during the week. Temperatures for the week averaged from one degree below normal to two degrees above in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: The rainfall delayed most hay harvesting. Clover in Leon County showed great blooms with most blooms now in the seed stage of growth. Producers are nearly finished planting the peanut crop with one percent of plants already forming pegs. Peanut condition is rated 2 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 48 percent good and 20 percent excellent with the excessive rainfall lowering the condition from last week. Actual storm damage to peanuts, cotton and other crops in the Panhandle is currently being assessed by growers. The excessive rainfall boosted soil moisture in nearly all areas. Only a few localities along the southeastern coast reported very short to short soil moisture supplies. Elsewhere, soil moisture is adequate to surplus.

VEGETABLES: Rains over the vegetable producing areas delayed harvesting with most southern Peninsula picking of sweet corn, peppers and squash nearly finished for the season. Growers completed tomato harvesting around Immokalee. The tomato harvest got underway around Quincy with the crop pounded by rains from Tropical Storm Arlene. Producers are currently assessing damages to the Quincy tomatoes. Less rain fell over the Hastings potato area with virtually no damage from the storms reported. Many potato producers in the Hastings area finished digging with only some of the processing crop left. Harvesting of Rabbiteye blueberries is active in Clay County. Other vegetables available include snap beans, eggplant, okra, cantaloupes and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The condition of pasture throughout the State improved considerably due to ample rainfall of the past two weeks. However, pastures at several locations in the Panhandle, central and southwest areas are flooded. Statewide, the cattle are mostly in good condition.

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