

Weather Crop Report

Week ending September 10, 2006

RAINS FLOODED SOME AREAS; PANHANDLE STILL DRY

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Significant rains fell across most of the southern Peninsula, some central Peninsula areas and Big Bend coastal localities during the week of September 4 through 10. Although some showers occurred across the Panhandle, most fields need more rain. Heavy rains flooded some fields and roads, especially in some central areas. Rainfall for the week ranged from none at Ocklawaha, Okahumpka and Pierson to nearly eight inches in Miami. Carrabelle recorded over five inches for the week. Temperatures averaged one degree above to two degrees below normal in the major cities. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate to surplus over the southern and central Peninsula. Northern Peninsula and Panhandle soil moisture was rated short to mostly adequate with some areas of very short soil moisture reported in Santa Rosa, Washington, Leon and Suwannee counties. Cotton harvesting slowly gained momentum in the Panhandle. Recent rainfall caused a significant amount of the cotton plants to put on more bolls with growers having to decide whether to pick the early crop put on during the summer drought or wait for the second crop to mature. Peanut digging continued in the northern Peninsula and Panhandle with some harvesting delayed by recent rains. Some peanuts are still pegging, making the decision of when to dig difficult for growers. Reports showed five percent of peanuts are harvested versus only two percent by this date last year from the hurricane delayed harvest. Peanut condition was rated 10 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 30 percent good and 5 percent excellent.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
5	2	8

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	15	0	10	25	1
Short	10	25	18	30	35	9
Adequate	70	45	65	50	25	67
Surplus	10	15	17	10	15	23

VEGETABLES: Field work progressed between rain showers with most on schedule. Okra harvesting continued in Dade County with some activity interrupted by rainfall. Quincy area tomatoes are on schedule with picking expected to begin the first week of October.



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Florida
Field
Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

Florida Department
of Agriculture and
Consumer Services,
Division of Marketing
and Development

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: The range and pasture has improved in most locations during the past week following a good amount of rain. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition is poor to good, with most in good condition. The pastures are growing nicely with ponds low and wetlands dry. The livestock condition is mostly good. In the central areas, pasture is poor to excellent. Locations that received little rain are still in poor condition. The cattle are in fair to excellent condition. In the southwest, pasture condition is fair to good, with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent, with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This Week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	0	5	5
Fair	15	35	35	55
Good	75	60	55	35
Excellent	5	5	5	5

CITRUS: Short, hard rains and passing thunderstorms were characteristic of many afternoons this past week in citrus producing areas. The central citrus areas received the most rain, recording over three inches in Lake Alfred and almost two and a half inches in Sebring. Almost all citrus producing areas are still reporting below average rainfall for the year, so the amount of precipitation they are currently getting is good for the trees. Temperatures were moderated this week, with daytime highs in the high 80s to low 90s in most areas. Fruit sizes are being reported as variable, but fruit quality is overall good and improving as the rainy season is keeping moisture in the ground. Growers are mowing, cleaning ditches and applying final supplemental sprays. Scouting for canker and greening by growers and caretakers continues. Due to the shortage of available resets, grove owners are resetting to the extent they can purchase new trees to put in the ground.

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