



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 28, 2008

GOOD WEEK FOR FIELD WORK

WEATHER SUMMARY: Milder temperatures were welcomed last week, lower temperatures ranged from the 50s to 70s. Daytime highs reached upper 80s and mid-90s. Major cities averaged lows in the 50s, 60s, and 70s with higher temperatures in the 80s and 90s. The southern Peninsula received the majority of rainfall. Broward and Dade counties recorded 3.59 and 2.28 inches, respectively. Less than half an inch of rain was reported across most of the State.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut condition was rated 34% fair, 53% good, and 13% excellent. Peanut digging was 30 percent complete, compared with 22 percent last year, and a five year average progress of 29 percent. Cool nights slowed peanut progress in Lafayette County. Washington County felt the effects of dry soil, making it hard to dig in some areas. Farmers in the northern and central Peninsulas reported favorable conditions for harvesting in fields while areas of the southern Peninsula reported field work delays due to excessive rainfall. Cotton harvest began in Santa Rosa County. Dixie County's silage looked good on irrigated fields. Madison County approached the end of corn harvesting. Topsoil moisture condition was short to adequate in the Panhandle and mostly adequate in the central and southern Peninsulas. Subsoil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending September 28, 2008			
Stage	2008	2007	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	30	22	29

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	3	5	7	3	3	9
Short	18	22	32	9	17	39
Adequate	64	61	58	72	65	52
Surplus	15	12	3	16	15	0

VEGETABLES: Vegetables looked very good in Hendry and Hardee counties. Some Tri- County locations experienced loss of their vegetable crop and had delays in planting. As of last week, vegetables in St. Johns County progressed well. Tomato planting was completed in Manatee County. Okra, tomatoes, and avocados were marketed last week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Some pastures were hurt by drought. Preparation of fields for winter small grain forage was underway in Jefferson County. In Washington County, some pastures were drying out with forages very slow to come back with nighttime temperatures in the 50s. Cattle condition was fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most fair to good. Some pastures were in very poor condition due to standing water from rain the previous week or from Tropical Storm Fay. There was looper damage of pastures. Cattle condition was fair to good. In the southwest areas, pasture condition was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was 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	5	5
Poor	2	5	5	10
Fair	35	20	40	25
Good	55	65	45	55
Excellent	8	10	5	5

CITRUS: Weather patterns brought cooler temperatures to citrus producing areas. All areas except Immokalee dropped to the low 60s at least one night during the week. Rainfall was nominal in four of the seven monitored areas. Rainfall early in the week totaling over one inch in Ft. Pierce was the largest exception. Immokalee and Sebring had one-half inch. Normal grove maintenance activity included irrigating, spraying, mowing, pulling out old trees, and preparing for harvest. Growers were actively scouting for greening and spraying to reduce the psyllid population or making the decision to push trees affected with the disease. Owners with groves next to abandoned citrus that lack psyllid control have concerns. Overall, trees cared for look good with heavy foliage and healthy fruit. Over a dozen packinghouses have opened and are running fruit. Varieties going fresh include Fallglo tangerines, grapefruit, Ambersweet, and Navel oranges. Only one processing plant has opened so far this season.

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