



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending February 7, 2010

Many Northern and Central Fields Saturated

Weather Summary: Most areas received between 0.50 and 2.00 inches of rain last week. The Panhandle recorded the highest amounts with Franklin, Santa Rosa, and Jefferson counties all reporting over 2.00 inches. High temperatures were in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Lows ranged mostly in the 30s and 40s. In major cities, high temperatures averaged in the 60s and 70s during the day, but dipped into the 40s and 50s at night.

Field Crops: Wet soils in the Panhandle and Big Bend areas hindered field work. In Holmes and Okaloosa counties, the ground was too muddy for disking and applying fertilizer. The heavy rainfall caused some erosion, fertilizer leaching, standing water, and slower growth of winter pasture. While the precipitation was too much for many fields, some growers reported that the moisture helped forages recover from the recent freeze. Hay supplies in Washington and Jackson counties were rapidly declining. Potato growers in Putnam County assessed damage from standing water. Sugarcane harvest continued in south Florida with some reduction in yield due to freeze damage sustained last month.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	4	1	1	13	1
Short	20	35	14	22	29	15
Adequate.....	67	60	68	64	55	68
Surplus.....	12	1	17	13	3	16

Vegetables: Spring melons were planted in Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry counties. In Manatee County, producers reported localized flooding in vegetable beds. Water receded steadily in well-drained areas. Planting was delayed in Walton County due to surplus rains. Light volumes of vegetables continued to move through the market including snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was mostly poor due to cold and flooding. Winter forage was not growing due to generally cold weather. There has been some loss of stands in oats due to the freezing weather. The heavy rainfall has leached fertilizer and caused erosion. Some cool season forages were tall enough to graze but the pasture was too wet for the cattle, as some pasture had standing water. Hay feeding was active with a few reports of short supply. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most poor to fair. Pastures in low lying areas had standing water. In the southwestern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most fair to good. Pasture was greening but covered with frost-burnt grass. Cattle were stressed from the poor pasture condition. Hay and supplemental feeding was active. Pastures in St. Lucie County were generally dry. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was mostly fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	2	20	15
Poor	14	10	50	45
Fair.....	45	50	25	30
Good	35	35	5	10
Excellent	5	3	0	0

Citrus: Highs this week reached the upper 70s and lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 30s and 40s. Alachua recorded the lowest temperature of 36 degrees. Rainfall was moderate to heavy, with all but one station receiving a half-inch or more. Ocklawaha received the most at 1.90 inches, while Kenansville received none at all. All of the packinghouses were open. Varieties being packed included early oranges (Navel and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, and tangerines (mostly Sunburst, with a few Honeys). Seventeen processors were open and accepting fruit. Early, midseason, and late oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. The predominant grove activity last week was the harvesting of early and mid oranges.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	January 24, 2010	January 31, 2010	February 7, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	6,012	5,631	5,155
Valencia	0	24	44
Navel oranges	22	14	12
Grapefruit	597	726	908
Tangelos	43	31	8
Tangerines	116	125	106

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.