Field Crops Suffering Due To High Heat, Dry Conditions

Weather Summary: Widely scattered showers dropped from traces to over four inches of rain during the week of July 25 through August 1. Minimal rains have not eased drought conditions in some Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities. Alachua recorded over two inches of precipitation with Tallahassee reporting over three inches. Most areas received traces to over an inch of rainfall. Areas reporting over four inches of rain included Avalon, Hastings, and Ona. Major cities averaged temperatures that were one degree below normal to six degrees above normal. Daytime highs were in the mid to upper 90s with the heat index raising temperatures to over 100 degrees in several stations. Evening lows were in the 70s.

Soil Moisture Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture Rating</th>
<th>Topsoil</th>
<th>Subsoil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Previous week (percent)</td>
<td>Previous year (percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very short......</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short...........</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate.......</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus.........</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Crops: Field crops were suffering due to extreme heat conditions coupled with the lack of rainfall. Growers need substantial rains to elevate moisture supplies. Dry conditions may reduce peanut yields in dry land fields. In Jackson County, dry conditions and high temperatures was beginning to cause significant stress on peanuts and cotton. Some peanut pegs were burning off due to the heat. Some peanut fields were being treated for white mold in the Panhandle. Growers continue to spray fungicides. Peanut condition was rated 2 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Peanuts are 80 percent pegged compared with 78 percent last year and the five-year average of 90 percent pegged by this date. Corn harvesting was underway in areas throughout Hamilton and Jackson counties. Corn in Escambia County is in critical need of rains.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: August 1, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>2009 (percent)</th>
<th>5-year average (percent)</th>
<th>2010 (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pegged.......</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vegetables: Vegetable producers were busy preparing land for fall planting in the southern Peninsula areas. Okra and light supplies of avocados were marketed last week.
Livestock and Pastures: Cattle and pasture were stressed by high temperatures. In the Panhandle and northern areas, the condition of the pasture was poor to excellent with most fair to good. Pasture was hurt by drought and high temperatures stressed livestock. Much pasture was overgrazed. The cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, the pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Many cattlemen were mowing pastures to remove over-mature grass. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Cattle weight gain was lower than average due to heat and the low quality of over-mature forage. In the southwestern area, the range was in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Statewide, cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cattle and Pasture Condition</th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Pasture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Previous week</td>
<td>Current week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor ...................</td>
<td>(percent)</td>
<td>(percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor ........................</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair ........................</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good ........................</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent ...................</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citrus: Highs this week were in the mid to upper 90s, with early morning lows in the low to mid 70s. Avalon received the most precipitation with 4.48 inches. North Port received the least with 0.03 inches of precipitation recorded. Fourteen of the twenty-five stations reported less than an inch of rain. Mild drought conditions continued in Indian River County and surrounding counties were dry as well. Growing conditions continued to be good across the citrus region. Cultural practices included limited fertilizations, hedging, irrigation, and the resetting of young trees. Some summer sprays were applied as rainfall permitted. Growers continued using both aerial and ground spraying for citrus psyllid control.

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