



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 25, 2011

Cotton Harvest Underway

Weather Summary: Daily showers were widespread from the Panhandle down to the southern Peninsula. Most reports indicated one to over two inches of precipitation for the week. Localities receiving over three inches of rainfall included Belle Glade, Homestead, Jacksonville, Jay, MacClenny, and Orlando. Rain accumulation totaled over four inches in Daytona Beach, Kenansville, and Palmdale. In Brooksville and Ona, over five inches of rain was reported. Temperatures averaged around normal to three degrees above normal. Daily highs were in the 90s. Evening lows were in the 60s and 70s.

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	4	10	4	4	6	6
Short	30	25	20	22	23	22
Adequate	61	63	70	64	66	64
Surplus	5	2	6	10	5	8

Field Crops: Statewide, rains improved soil moisture with supplies rated mostly adequate. Cotton harvesting was in full swing across the Panhandle. Rains in the Panhandle delayed some peanut harvesting but helped loosen the soils for digging. Some areas in Washington County continued to be in desperate need of rain in order to dig peanuts. Peanut crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Scattered rains aided soybean growth in Washington County. Sugarcane producers prepared to begin harvesting next week in the Everglades region. Some sugarcane appeared to be at its peak height.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: September 25, 2011

Stage	2010	5-year average	2011
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	35	22	18

Vegetables: Planting of fall crops continued with recent rainfall interrupting some field work. Vegetable farmers were busy pumping water out of some low lying fields due to heavy rains. Some vegetable growers applied fungicides to prevent early plant disease. Avocado harvesting continued in southern Florida. Growers in Miami-Dade County harvested okra and planted snap beans. Around Quincy, growers continued to prepare for tomato harvesting. Cabbage planting was active in Flagler County. Sweet corn planting was underway around Lake Okeechobee. Producers in Orange County harvested cucumbers for pickles and sweet corn, in addition to planting cabbage.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture conditions varied from very poor to excellent, with 60 percent in good condition. Drought limited pasture quality in the north and central areas and insect damage limited pasture quality in the southwest. The cattle conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with 65 percent in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Preparation for planting winter grazing forage intensified in locations that recently received rainfall. Decreased daylight slowed summer perennial grass growth and quality. In the **northern** areas, pastures ranged from very poor to excellent. Cattle ranged from poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. In the **central** areas, pasture condition ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the **southwest**, the condition of pastures ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition. Forage quality began to decline as grasses matured. The condition of the cattle ranged from fair to excellent with most in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	1	4	2	5
Fair.....	15	23	20	20
Good.....	75	65	60	60
Excellent.....	8	7	17	13

Citrus: Temperatures were in the upper 60s to the lower 70s at night and the lower to mid-90s during the day for the majority of the week. This week, rainfall was heavier, with all of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus-growing areas receiving some rainfall. Amounts received ranged from 0.43 inch in Arcadia, to 5.07 inches in Brooksville. Drought condition ranged from drought-free in the western half of the citrus region to severe conditions in small parts of Okeechobee, Martin, St Lucie, and Palm Beach counties, along the eastern and north-eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor; last updated September 20, 2011. Citrus packinghouses have begun making limited shipments, consisting of Hamlin and Ambersweet oranges, Fallglo tangerines, and grapefruit. Grove activity included resetting new trees, young tree care, application of fall miticide, and irrigation as needed.

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