



Louisiana Crop Progress and Condition Report



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Cooperating with Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Week Ending August 24, 2014

Released: August 25, 2014

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Louisiana, there were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, August 24, 2014**. Topsoil moisture supplies were 2 percent very short, 18 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 3 percent very short, 12 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending August 24, 2014

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, mature	94	87	100	100
Corn, harvested	38	12	60	74
Cotton, setting bolls	100	97	100	100
Cotton, open bolls	32	17	35	55
Hay, second cutting	93	89	96	90
Rice, headed	99	98	99	99
Rice, mature	84	59	83	85
Rice, harvested	46	28	60	58
Sorghum, coloring	100	97	99	100
Sorghum, mature	95	82	87	93
Sorghum, harvested	64	38	52	69
Soybeans, setting pods	97	94	97	98
Soybeans, turning color	61	38	34	51
Soybeans, dropping leaves	42	17	13	29
Sugarcane, planted	26	13	30	34
Sweet Potatoes, harvested	11	5	3	2

Crop condition for week ending August 24, 2014

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	0	0	10	66	24
Cotton	0	1	8	67	24
Livestock	0	6	29	55	10
Pasture	0	6	28	54	12
Rice	0	1	14	62	23
Sorghum	0	2	22	53	23
Soybeans	1	2	13	59	25
Sugarcane	2	10	35	39	14
Vegetables	2	17	41	38	2

Comments from Extension Agents

“Spotty heavy rains last week slowed corn harvest and sugarcane planting, but should resume this week. Reported corn yields have been high (200+) and crops still look good overall.”

– Donna Morgan, Rapides Parish

“Cane planting picked up with dryer weather, really covering some ground. Soybeans harvested on cane rows running in the mid 60’s to high 70 bushels per acre. Several ranchers will be able to get 3rd cutting of hay in with dry weather. Commercial Vegetable farmers picking okra and field peas; planting first fields of mustard greens.”

– Steve Borel, West Baton Rouge Parish

“Harvest has been a challenge with persistent rain showers throughout the area. Grain sorghum, corn, and rice will face some quality issues if weather conditions do not allow producers to carry out harvest efficiently. Producers are being very cautious about defoliating early maturing soybeans with the current weather conditions. However yields have been favorable on the crops that did get harvested. Insect and disease pressure remain moderate to low in later soybeans. Forages remain abundant for grazing and haying, weather has been a factor in baling hay as well.”

– Vincent Deshotel, St. Laundry Parish

“Rice harvest around 60%, even with rain delays, more lodged rice showing from high winds and rain, chances of ratoon crop in many fields will be lowered with rutting due to rains and later harvest. Yields are still exceptionally good. Milling, although few reports, appears to be very good. Soybeans doing well, don't need any more rain, pods are filling out, couple of fields where alfalfa hoppers early season girdling of stems causing lodging of plants as they fill and get too heavy. Other insect problems in beans have been light. Armyworm pressure in hayfields has gone down lately.”

– Keith A Fontenot, Evangeline Parish

“Persistent afternoon showers continue to halt field progress. Rice growers are reporting yields slightly lower than last year's record. The lower yield is attributed by some to showers during rice pollination. Milo fields are ready to harvest but will require drier weather for completion. Milo growers are reporting yields in the 90 bushel range which is below last year's averages. Sugarcane planting continues to be interrupted by wet conditions. The shorter cane is creating around a 4 to 1 planting ratio which is disappointing growers. Some bean fields planted on cane rows are being harvested. Early yield reports are good with beans cutting in the 60 to 70 bushel range. Caterpillar pressure continues to be light in bean fields but red banded stink bug populations appear to be increasing.”

– Stuart Gauthier, St. Martin Parish

(Temperatures and precipitation for the week ending August 24, 2014 were not available at press time.)