General
According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in South Carolina, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 6, 2020. Precipitation ranged from no rain to 4.2 inches. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid 80s to the high 90s. Average low temperatures ranged from the mid 60s to the high 70s.

Crops
Limited to no rain in many counties was helpful for conducting fieldwork, especially cutting hay, but soybeans began showing signs of drought stress in some counties. Insect pressure was building on soybeans and other crops in the Lowcountry. Corn harvesting continued, but was slowed some by high humidity. Producers began digging peanuts. The percentage of cotton with bolls opening fell behind historic averages.

The muscadine harvest started to wind down, with very good yields. Fall vegetables were growing well, overall. Fall squash and cucumber harvesting began. Land preparation for strawberries was underway. Some farmers lost recently transplanted collards to heat stress; even some collards under irrigation showed signs of stress. Producers continued to plant brassicas. Last week’s heat caused some stress to the crop. Diamondback moth, cabbage loopers, and black rot were observed in brassica crops, and armyworms were in tomatoes. Caterpillar activity continued to increase. Coastal counties battled a severe infestation of whiteflies on vegetable crops.

Livestock and Pastures
Lack of adequate rainfall over the last two weeks in some areas, combined with increased temperatures and high humidity, led to some thinning and wilting in pasture grasses. Pastures would benefit from soaking rain. Cattle condition remained mostly good.