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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending August 19, 2001

Released 4:00 P.M.

August 20, 2001

WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered late afternoon and evening lightning storms brought varying amounts of moisture to the State during the week of August 12 through August 18. Tampa recorded no rainfall; Pensacola recorded over two inches. Drier weather in some areas allowed field work to continue. Temperatures averaged two degrees above normal to one degree below normal for the week. Daytime highs were in the 90s and nighttime lows were in the 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil moisture conditions are rated mostly adequate with scattered areas of short or surplus moisture. Wet soils are delaying the start of peanut harvest. Wet weather is slowing haying and spraying of peanuts for leaf spot. Tobacco harvest is active. Peanut condition is rated 19 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 39 percent excellent. Corn, cotton, soybeans, and sugarcane remain in good condition.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very short	0	0	0	0
Short	0	25	11	17
Adequate	79	57	70	67
Surplus	21	18	19	16

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, cattle condition is good to excellent. Stock ponds are starting to hold some water following rains of past weeks. Land preparation for winter grazing, small grains is underway. In the north, cattle and pasture conditions are fair to good. In the central counties, cattle condition is mostly fair as the grass is short. In the southeast, cattle range condition is good. In the southwest, cattle condition is fair to good and range condition is good. Statewide, cattle condition is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	Last week	This week	Last week	This week
	Percent			
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	0	5	0	0
Fair	30	15	25	15
Good	55	75	60	80
Excellent	15	5	15	5

CITRUS: There were scattered rains and thunderstorms in most areas this week. However, some of the thunderstorms dumped from one to two inches of rain on those isolated areas. Some areas went three to four days without any rain and then the heavy showers arrived. A few growers with new trees started irrigating as the high temperatures had evaporated surface moisture. Most well-cared-for groves have an abundance of new growth on virtually all trees. New crop fruit is responding very well to the summer rains. There has been some maturity testing of young to middle age grapefruit for early shipments. Caretakers have been very busy keeping up with their spraying programs for crops going to the fresh markets.

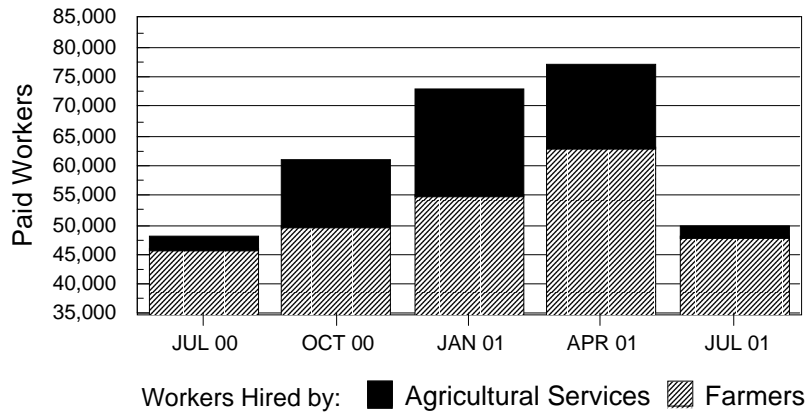
Cover crops are being mowed, chopped and disced in all areas due to the rapid growth generated from the current ideal growing conditions. Young tree fertilizations and herbicides are being applied before the afternoon rains arrive. Bush hogging continues following pruning, hedging and topping. Many older declining sour root trees are being removed, stacked and burned.

VEGETABLES: Okra harvesting continues in Dade County. Improved weather increased fieldwork in some areas. Planting of round varieties of tomatoes continued around Immokalee and in the Palmetto-Ruskin and East Coast regions. Plant condition is fair to good. East Coast growers are transplanting peppers and eggplant.

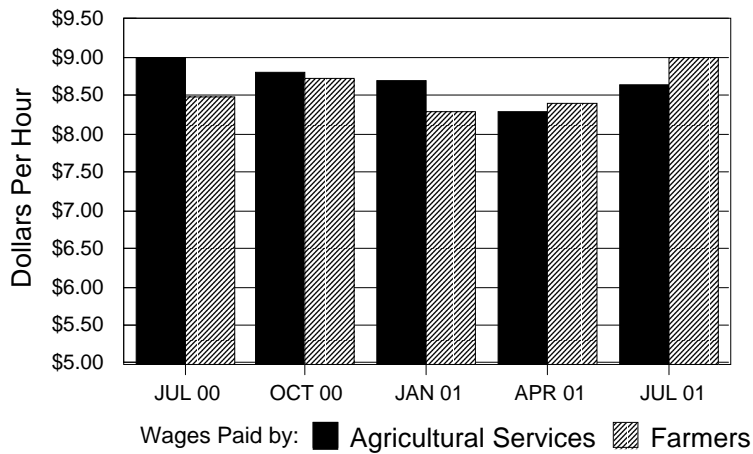
In cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service whose county directors participate in supplying field information.

Agricultural Labor: Workers and Wages, July 2000 through July 2001

Agricultural Workers Hired in Florida
By Farmers and Agricultural Service Operators



All Hired Wages Paid in Florida
By Farmers and Agricultural Service Operators



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