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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 6, 2004

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered storms helped alleviate dry conditions in many Panhandle and central Peninsula areas and a few northern and southern Peninsula localities during the week of May 30 through June 5. Rainfall totaled from less than a tenth inch at Bradenton, Homestead, Okahumpka, Umatilla, Jacksonville and Miami, to over three inches at Quincy and Tallahassee. Many central Peninsula and some east coast localities received one to three inches of rain from these storms. Lightning accompanying the rains started several fires. The scattered nature of the recent rain left some areas dry with the danger of wildfire high. Temperatures in the major cities averaged from normal at Pensacola to four degrees above at Miami and West Palm Beach. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Cotton remains in good condition, statewide, with only a few farmers, especially in Washington County, having to replant due to poor germination. Peanut condition is rated five percent poor, twenty percent fair, fifty-five percent good and twenty percent excellent with most growers expected to finish planting, except for the green peanut crop, this week. Soil moisture supplies increased in areas that received the recent rain. However, soil moisture in localities which the rains skipped remain dry. Union, Alachua, Citrus, Brevard, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Charlotte and Broward counties reported some areas with very short soil moisture. Some Panhandle and a few central Peninsula areas that received abundant rainfall reported some spots with surplus soil moisture, especially in Jackson, Holmes and Osceola counties.

PERCENTAGE OF PEANUTS PLANTED TO DATE

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| This year | 85% |
| Last year | 96% |
| 5 - year average | 92% |

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last Year |
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | | | |
| Very short | 15 | 30 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 2 |
| Short | 30 | 55 | 21 | 30 | 70 | 14 |
| Adequate | 50 | 14 | 61 | 55 | 14 | 73 |
| Surplus | 5 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 11 |

VEGETABLES: Truck shortages continue to slow movement of potatoes, as well as other crops, from the Hastings and central Peninsula areas. Tomato picking was delayed by showers in the Quincy area with most producers expected to increase volume this

week. Most radish digging is finished for the season. Other vegetables and non-citrus crops available include cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, tomatoes and watermelons.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: Panhandle, the condition of pasture and cattle is fair to good, with pasture benefitting from recent rains. In the Big Bend area, pasture is poor to fair, with drought stifling grass growth. Ranchers are feeding supplemental hay to livestock in some cases. In the south, the condition of the cattle and pasture is mostly fair due to drought. Statewide, the condition of the cattle is fair to good.

| Condition | Range | | Cattle | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last week |
| <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Very poor | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Poor | 25 | 30 | 5 | 5 |
| Fair | 50 | 40 | 50 | 30 |
| Good | 20 | 25 | 40 | 63 |
| Excellent | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |

CITRUS: The extreme hot and dry weather pattern of the last few weeks was broken this week with the arrival of afternoon thunderstorms. Although widely scattered, most areas in the citrus belt received some rainfall. Coastal and upper interior areas received the least, only up to an inch. Many interior areas received over 1.5 inches with some reporting up to four. Temperatures moderated with the arrival of afternoon rains. Growers in all areas report needing more rain to replenish soil moisture levels which declined dramatically in the spring. Water restrictions are still in force in some locations and several major flood canals on the east coast are still to low to pump water from. Cultural practices are continuing including fertilizations, hedging, and resetting of young trees. Most fresh fruit packinghouses are closed for the season with only a few continuing to pack Valencia oranges. Valencia orange weekly harvest is declining as plants close for the season.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

| Crop | May 23 | May 31 | Jun 6 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Valencia oranges | 7,474,000 | 6,774,000 | 4,674,000 |
| Grapefruit | 210,000 | 89,000 | 74,000 |
| Honey tangerines | 7,000 | 1,000 | 0 |

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