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WEATHER & CROP NEWS

Week ending June 26, 2005

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Substantial rainfall brought copious amounts of precipitation to various localities during the period of June 20 through 26. Recorded rainfall totals ranged from none in Marianna to more than six inches in Miami. Significant showers were mainly in the central and southern Peninsula with nearly all areas receiving over two inches. Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Homestead, Immokalee, and Kenansville reported over three inches for the week. Rainfall over the rest of the central and southern Peninsula totaled one to two inches. The rain missed many areas in the Panhandle as well as the northern Peninsula. Temperatures were below normal for this time of year with most major cities one to four degrees below. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s with evening temperatures in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Drier conditions over the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula counties allowed growers to apply herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides to peanuts and other crops. Growers reported lots of grasshoppers, spittle bugs and corn ear worms in Leon County. Peanut condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 66 percent good and 25 percent excellent. The percent of peanuts pegged reached 30 percent versus 58 percent last year and the five-year average of 46 percent pegged by this date. Warmer temperatures are aiding the growth of cotton. Producers cut, mowed and baled hay during the clearer weather over the Panhandle and most of the northern Peninsula. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are short to adequate across the Panhandle and most of the northern Peninsula and mostly adequate to surplus elsewhere. Okeechobee County reported over 25 inches of rain falling in some localities during the past three weeks. Parts of Dade County received over 7 inches in the past ten days.

Percentage of Peanuts Pegged to Date

This year	30
Last year	58
Five year average	46

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	0	1	5	0	0	5
Short	10	3	29	7	1	17
Adequate	65	53	56	70	58	69
Surplus	25	43	10	23	41	9

VEGETABLES: Plentiful rains interrupted most fieldwork in addition to curtailing the harvest of some crops. Producers around the Quincy

region increased tomato picking as harvesting from central areas declined seasonally. Okra harvesting was active in Dade County. Watermelon and cantaloupe cutting continued with growers helping to supply the Independence Day market. Some growers in the northern Peninsula reported some problems with watermelon disease. The volume of cucumbers, eggplant and peppers declined seasonally.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, most pasture is in good to excellent condition but some pasture is showing signs of drought stress. In the northern areas, most pasture is in good condition but there is standing water still in some pastures. In the Big Bend area, the pasture is fair due to limited soil moisture. Pasture in the southwest is mostly fair to good but the condition of cattle varies from poor to good. Statewide, the condition of cattle is mostly good.

Condition	Range		Cattle	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	0	0	5	5
Fair	20	10	20	15
Good	70	80	65	75
Excellent	10	10	10	5

CITRUS: Moderate but wet weather conditions prevailed over the citrus areas of the State during the week. High temperatures reached only the high 80s and low 90s because of the almost daily rains. Early in the week, rainfall was spotty and light. But mid-week, a weak low pressure system moved over the State that brought slow moving storms with heavy downpours. Groves in the southwest areas recorded over three inches of rainfall over several days. East coast areas also received variable amounts as the system rotated through the State with interior areas receiving spotty but lesser amounts. Growers reported trees in very good condition as new crop fruit grows very fast because of the abundant rainfall. Most areas are 10 to 20 percent ahead of normal rainfall amounts for this time of year. Lakes and canals are at their highest levels since last summer after the hurricanes. Harvest of Valencia oranges is declining as plants close for the season. Storms interrupted picking on a limited basis as harvesters try to finish this season's crop.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED WEEK ENDED

Crop	Jun 26	Jun 19	Jun 12
In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes			
Valencia oranges	1,861	2,573	2,968

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