

Weather Crop Report

Week ending August 6, 2006

FIELD CROPS CONTINUE TO SUFFER, DESPITE RAINS

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rains in the Panhandle helped ease dry conditions during the week of July 31 through August 6. Rainfall ranged from traces at West Palm Beach to over three and half inches at Pensacola. Quincy received over three inches of rain for the week, while Jay and Marianna recorded over two inches of rain. Elsewhere, rainfall totals ranged from a quarter of an inch to over an inch. Temperatures in major cities hovered around normal to one degree below normal in Pensacola. Hot daytime temperatures were in the lower to upper 90s. Pleasant evening lows were in the upper 60s and lower 70s.

FIELD CROPS: In Santa Rosa County, peanuts are just beginning to peg in areas that have received rains. Cotton yields have been significantly reduced by the drought in Santa Rosa. Hay conditions continue to worsen for some growers in the Panhandle with a significant portion of the crop rated in poor condition as well in poor quality. Peanuts in Jackson County continue to suffer despite the recent showers. The damage is too significant to reverse. Peanut yields have been reduced due to drought conditions. Peanuts are 95 percent pegged compared with 99 percent last year and the five-year average of 97 percent pegged by this date. Soil moisture supplies across the Panhandle and northern Peninsula are rated mostly short to adequate with some spots of very short supplies. Topsoil moisture across the central and southern Peninsula is rated short to adequate. Marion County soil moisture supplies are rated short to surplus.

Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
95	99	97

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	2	5	1	9	10	0
Short	53	30	7	53	50	8
Adequate	44	64	60	37	39	57
Surplus	1	1	32	1	1	35

VEGETABLES: Favorable weather conditions allowed growers to continue ground preparations for fall crop planting. Okra harvesting remains active in Dade County. Growers marketed light supplies of grape tomatoes.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is very poor to good. Length of the drought has severely lowered the pasture condition in this area. In Washington County, a reduced hay crop is expected and calf weaning weights are poor from short grass and hot temperatures. In the north and Big Bend areas, pasture condition is mostly poor to fair due to prolonged drought. Pasture in the central area is fair to excellent. In the southwest, pasture condition ranges from poor to good as weather has been drier. Statewide, cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent. The cattle in the Panhandle and north are in poor to good condition and those in the central and south are in fair to good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	3	5
Poor	3	10	25	5
Fair	63	55	45	30
Good	31	30	24	55
Excellent	3	5	3	5

CITRUS: Slow moving afternoon showers has affected all citrus producing areas. Areas in the center of the State had totals of about one inch of rain for the week. The east coast recorded the least rain at one quarter of an inch. Hot temperatures prevailed in most localities with daytime highs averaging in the mid to high 90s. Lake Alfred reported one daytime high at over 97 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the high 60s and low 70s. Growers continue to irrigate due to little rain and hot weather in order to keep the new crop and new growth on the trees in good condition. Fruit sizes are still being reported as variable, with early and mid oranges larger than golf-ball size and grapefruit better than baseball size. Many smaller sizes are also being found on healthy trees. Activity in the groves includes applications of summer oils, cleaning ditches, fertilizing, mowing and irrigation.

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