

Weather Crop Report

Week ending August 20, 2006

SCATTERED RAINS AIDED CROP GROWTH

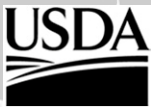
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WEATHER SUMMARY: Rainfall during the week of August 14 through 20 was scattered over the Panhandle and northern Peninsula with Jay, Mariana, Quincy and Live Oak reporting from two tenths to three quarters of an inch for the week. Rainfall ranged from traces at Okahumpka and Jacksonville to nearly five inches at Homestead and Sebring. Most showers occurred over the southern Peninsula and along the western half of the Peninsula. Temperatures for the week in the major cities averaged within a degree or two of normal. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s.

FIELD CROPS: Scattered rains over some parts of the Panhandle and northern Peninsula aided hay, peanut and cotton growth. However, drought conditions for most of the crop year reduced yield prospects in many fields. Some cotton in Santa Rosa County is underdeveloped. Early planted peanuts in Santa Rosa County, to be harvested for boiling, show good yield prospects; however, the dry weather hurt late plantings. Peanut condition was rated 15 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 26 percent good and 9 percent excellent. Peanuts were 99 percent pegged versus 100 percent pegged for both last year and the five year average. Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were mostly short to adequate, statewide. Very short soil moisture was reported mainly in some Panhandle and in some northern and southeastern Peninsula localities. Marion and Dade counties reported some areas with surplus soil moisture.



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Percentage of peanuts pegged to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
99	100	100

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	20	14	1	25	19	0
Short	30	47	12	25	45	13
Adequate	49	39	65	48	35	61
Surplus	1	0	22	2	1	26

VEGETABLES: Significant rains of two to three inches over the West Central and Immokalee areas delayed some field preparations and fall crop planting. Heavy rains around Homestead slowed ground preparations for winter crop plantings. Dade County growers continued to harvest okra during the week.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition was mostly good. Rain helped pasture growth, but the water level in stock ponds was not improved. In the northern areas, pasture condition ranged from very poor due to drought, to excellent where rain had recently been received. In most northern locations, recent rains have had minimal effect on grass condition as soil is so dry. Pasture in the central areas was poor to excellent with most in poor condition due to drought. In the southwest, pasture condition was mostly fair. Statewide, cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent. Most cattle in the Panhandle and southwest areas were in good condition, while the north and central areas the cattle condition was fair.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	1	3
Poor	5	1	19	16
Fair	35	43	55	53
Good	55	49	20	25
Excellent	5	7	5	3

CITRUS: Afternoon and evening showers on several days brought between one half inch to almost five inches of rain to citrus producing counties. The southern counties recorded the most rain for the week. All areas are still behind average rainfall for the year. Daytime highs were cooler this week than the past couple of weeks, with the highest temperature recorded in Immokalee at 95 degrees. Growers are using drip irrigation due to lack of rain and hot weather, with some flooding of groves also being reported. Fruit sizes are still being reported as variable. Fruit quality is overall good; however some softness of fruit has been noticed on grapefruit. Activity in the groves is limited and includes primarily irrigation, mowing and some applications of summer oils and fertilizer.

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