

Weather Crop Report

October 1, 2006

COOL TEMPERATURES NORTHERN PARTS

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WEATHER SUMMARY: Scattered rains missed some areas during the week of September 25 through October 1 with some localities in all regions reporting no measurable rain for the week. The danger of wild fires is high in some drier parts of the northern and central Peninsula. Rainfall totaled less than half an inch in most regions with only Ft. Lauderdale, Kenansville and Pensacola receiving one to two inches for the week, respectively. Temperatures in the major cities averaged two to five degrees below normal in most Panhandle localities and normal to two degrees above elsewhere. Daytime highs were in the 80s and 90s while nighttime lows were in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Low temperatures fell into the 40s on at least one day in some northern Peninsula and Panhandle areas.

FIELD CROPS: Topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate over the southern Peninsula, mostly short to adequate in the northern Peninsula, mostly short in the Big Bend area and very short to adequate in the Panhandle. Jackson, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Baker and Brevard counties reported areas of very short soil moisture supplies while Marion County reported some areas with surplus soil moisture. Peanut digging and combining remained active in the Panhandle and northern Peninsula but progress is significantly behind usual. Growers have harvested 15 percent of peanuts compared with 34 percent last year and the five year average of 45 percent harvested by this date. Dryland peanut yield and quality are poor. However, producers expect vast improvement for irrigated acreage. Peanut condition was rated 5 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 35 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Some cotton fields in Santa Rosa County are averaging from 500 to 1000 pounds per acre. Cotton yields are expected to vary greatly depending on the amount of rains received as the crop matured. Rainfall continued to hamper hay baling in some parts of the Panhandle. The summer drought lowered the amount of hay available to bale in some central and southern Peninsula areas. Some growers are preparing to plant small grains for winter grazing in the Panhandle.

Percentage of peanuts harvested to date:		
This year	Last year	5-year average.
15	34	45

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	10	5	3	15	10	3
Short	34	17	24	44	29	22
Adequate	55	74	67	40	60	64
Surplus	1	4	6	1	1	11

VEGETABLES: The harvesting of sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and watermelons got underway with very light amounts picked. Tomato production around Quincy is expected to be light until about mid-month. In Dade County, okra cutting continued. Fall and winter crop ground preparation and planting remained active over the central and southern Peninsula.



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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle, pasture condition is poor to good, with most in poor condition. The cattle are mostly in good condition. Land preparation for winter grazing planting is proceeding. Ponds are dry and pastures are "crunchy" but still somewhat green. There seems to be little new growth. In the northern areas, pasture condition is fair to excellent, with most in fair condition. The cattle are in fair to excellent condition with most in fair condition. In the central areas, pasture and cattle condition are poor to excellent with most in good condition. Prolonged drought this summer has reduced hay crops. Forage stocks are low. In the southwest, most pasture and cattle are in good condition. Statewide, the cattle condition ranges from poor to excellent, with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
<i>Percent</i>				
Very poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	5	5	10	5
Fair	20	15	35	20
Good	70	75	50	75
Excellent	5	5	5	0

CITRUS: The citrus belt experienced intervals of sunshine and clouds with light rains during the past week. Citrus producing counties are not seeing enough needed rainfall, and growers are running irrigation on a regular basis. Nighttime lows and early mornings have been in the 60s and 70s, warming up to the 80s and 90s on most days. Fruit sizes are variable and fruit quality is overall good. Recent cooler weather has spawned color break on grapefruit and some earlier varieties of oranges, mostly on larger inside fruit. A couple packing houses are open and running limited amounts of Ambersweet and Navel oranges and grapefruit. Grove maintenance includes mowing, herbiciding and spotted, late supplemental sulfur spraying. Scouting for canker and greening by growers and caretakers continues.

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