



WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending June 7, 2009

FIELD WORK INTERRUPTED BY RAIN

WEATHER SUMMARY: Last week's high temperatures ranged from the upper 80s to lower 90s. Nighttime temperatures were mostly in the 60s, with some 70s in south Florida. Major cities averaged daytime highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s and 70s. All locations received rainfall and many locations were getting into the summer pattern of afternoon showers. Some parts of the central region experienced heavy rain and thunderstorms with totals up to nearly 4 inches. Most of the State however, collected between 1 and 3 inches.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut planting was 85 percent complete. A few fields had peanut seed rot and will be replanted. Growers were also applying herbicide to control weeds. Dry weather in the first half of the week enabled farmers to plant peanuts and cotton. Rain late in the week impeded planting for some growers. Hay cutting in Highlands County was also delayed by rain. Hay condition improved due to recent precipitation. Significant wheat acreage remains unharvested in the Panhandle due to wet fields. This delay may cause problems for growers who normally practice double-cropping with late cotton or peanuts. Corn was in good condition. Flooding in the northeast counties negatively affected potato quality, but growers were still able to harvest and market some of their salvaged crop. Soil moisture was mostly adequate to surplus.

| Peanut Progress – Week Ending June 7, 2009 | | | |
|--|----------------|------|--------------|
| Stage | 2009 | 2008 | 5-yr Average |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | |
| Planted | 85 | 93 | 88 |

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | | Subsoil | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | Last year | This week | Last week | Last year |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | | |
| Very short | 1 | 1 | 46 | 8 | 2 | 42 |
| Short | 3 | 6 | 36 | 6 | 9 | 36 |
| Adequate | 70 | 70 | 18 | 75 | 74 | 22 |
| Surplus | 26 | 23 | 0 | 11 | 15 | 0 |

VEGETABLES: The spring season was virtually finished for the southern Peninsula except for okra and tropical crops. Central and northern fields continued to harvest crops such as sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, squash, tomatoes, specialty items, and cucumbers. Jackson County growers began harvesting watermelons. Snap beans in Suwannee County showed signs of disease. Melon quality and harvesting has decreased in the central and southern regions. Recent rain has delayed some field activity.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Summer forage condition was improving rapidly. Summer perennial grasses were recovering from poor early growth. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Forage crops were responding well and recovering from a deep drought. Cattle condition was mostly fair to good. Pasture condition in the southwest was very poor to excellent with most in good condition. The poor condition was due to flooding in some locations and to drought in others. Pasture grass condition continues to improve. Some pasture was flooded in low lying areas. The condition of the cattle improved as the grass began to grow. Some producers note that even with the severe drought earlier this year, calf weights were near normal. However, more hay and molasses were fed this year. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | This week | Last week | This week | Last week |
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | |
| Very poor | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Poor | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| Fair | 35 | 40 | 35 | 40 |
| Good | 50 | 40 | 50 | 40 |
| Excellent | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

CITRUS: Typical weather patterns for this time of year brought afternoon and evening showers on several days. All areas of the citrus belt reported some rainfall during the week. Many coastal and central areas received up to two inches. With the exception of a few areas where the groves were saturated, the rainy weather has not been a factor in harvesting or production practices. Production practices were on schedule and included herbiciding, aerial and ground spraying, mowing, and brush removal. The tropical weather continued to be an asset to fruit growth and tree foliage. Oranges were as large as golf ball size, while grapefruit were slightly larger. Trees in well-kept groves were in good condition for next season's crop. Three large processing plants plan on closing this week; almost all plants were planning to be closed by the end of the month. Packing of oranges limited and included late oranges and very small quantities of grapefruit.

| Estimated Boxes Harvested - Week Ended | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| Crop | May 24 | May 31 | Jun 07 |
| | <i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i> | | |
| Valencia oranges | 5,534 | 4,369 | 5,672 |
| Navel oranges | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grapefruit | 58 | 41 | 0 |

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