



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 23, 2009

HARVESTING FIELD CROPS; PLANTING VEGETABLES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daytime highs were in the 90s last week. Lows were in the 60s and 70s. A cool front in the Panhandle and Big Bend regions brought nighttime temperatures down to the low 60s. Large amounts of rainfall came to the eastern side of the central Peninsula. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) locations in Volusia, Osceola, Orange, and St. Johns counties each received 3.61, 2.80, 2.70, and 2.24 inches, respectively. Parts of the Panhandle reported over 4 inches of rain. Suwannee, Baker, and Hardee counties received just under 2 inches.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut pegging was complete. Peanut condition rated 1% poor, 7% fair, 75% good, and 17% excellent. A few peanut growers in Columbia, Alachua, and Levy counties began digging. Most peanuts throughout Florida were behind normal and were several weeks away from maturity. Field corn was harvested in Madison and Escambia counties. Rain delayed corn harvest in Columbia County, which may reduce quality. Planting of iron clay peas was finished in Madison County and soybeans were in good condition. Washington County growers reported some leaf spot disease in peanut fields. Armyworms were still a problem in many hay fields around the State. Hay was baled in areas where rain could be avoided. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in all areas.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending August 23, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
<i>Percent</i>			
Pegged	100	100	99

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
<i>Percent</i>						
Very short	1	0	0	1	1	0
Short	9	23	1	8	21	3
Adequate	73	64	49	76	66	54
Surplus	17	13	50	15	12	43

VEGETABLES: Fields in Flagler County were prepared for planting cabbage. Cucumbers and sweet corn were planted in Orange County. Producers in the southern Peninsula continued to prepare land, lay plastic, and plant vegetables. Last week okra and avocados were marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was fair to excellent with most in good condition. There was some damage to grass from armyworms. The condition of cattle ranged from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent. Some pastures in low lying areas were still flooded from rains earlier in the season while other locations were short on moisture. Armyworms have caused some damage to pasture grass. In the southern areas, range condition varied from very poor to excellent with most in good condition. Flooding accounted for the poor condition of the pasture. Statewide, cattle were in very poor to excellent condition with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	1	0
Poor	9	4	5	1
Fair	10	20	15	14
Good	55	55	59	65
Excellent	25	20	20	20

CITRUS: Remnants of Tropical Wave Ana made it's way across the State bringing heavy downpours and thunderstorms to the central and northern citrus-growing regions. Lake Alfred and Apopka received over two and one-half inches of rain for the week. In most areas, canals were full and soil surfaces were adequate. Some growers were using irrigation in isolated localities where there has not been as much rainfall. Temperatures reached the low to mid-90s in all monitored areas. Practices included mowing, fertilizing, spraying, and young tree care. Growers were doing what they can to keep the trees healthy in order to increase their longevity. Trees continue to look good in well-cared-for groves. New crop fruit was in good condition and sizing well with little evidence of off or late bloom.

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