



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending August 30, 2009

PEANUT HARVESTING, BENEFICIAL RAINFALL CONTINUES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daytime highs were mostly in the 90s last week except for the Panhandle which had highs in the upper 80s. Lows were in the 60s and 70s. Heavy rain was recorded in parts of the Panhandle with Franklin County receiving amounts in excess of nine inches. Rainfall was reported at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) locations. Most stations reported rainfall amounts of one to three inches. Franklin, Baker, and Levy counties reported 9.27, 3.35, and 2.76 inches, respectively. Tropical conditions persisted across the State with high humidity and daily evening showers and thunderstorms being the norm.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut harvesting was underway in early-planted fields. White mold and leaf spot problems were reported in some areas. Peanut condition was rated 1% poor, 22% fair, 58% good, and 19% excellent. Tobacco harvest was mostly complete. Cotton and soybeans were reported in good condition. Growth regulators were applied to cotton. Threat of soybean rust was a concern due to wet and humid conditions. Armyworms were still a problem in many hay fields around the State, but subsiding. Hay was baled in areas where rain could be avoided. Hay was past mature in some uncut fields and quality will be lower. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus in most row crop areas.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	1	0	0	1	0
Short	12	9	9	12	8	6
Adequate	74	73	39	74	76	45
Surplus	14	17	52	14	15	47

VEGETABLES: Growers continued to prepare fields, lay plastic, and plant vegetables for the fall crop in the southern Peninsula. Vegetable planting continued across central and northern counties. Southern field peas were planted in Gulf County and other areas of the Big Bend. Last week okra and avocados were marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was mostly good with the condition ranging from fair to excellent. The pasture grass was in good condition due to the recent rainfall. Cattlemen were fighting weeds which have filled in the bare spots and thin stands where pastures were short earlier in the season. The condition of the cattle varied from fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Rainfall has been sufficient to keep up with forage growth. Some pasture was poor due to damage to grass from armyworms. In the southern areas, the range condition varied from poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, most of the cattle were in good condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	1	1	0	1
Poor	2	9	5	5
Fair	15	10	15	15
Good	70	55	65	59
Excellent	12	25	15	20

CITRUS: Quick moving, heavy, thunderstorms developed over wide areas with many western-coastal counties receiving heavy rain on two to three days during the week. Ona and Balm recorded over two and one-quarter inches, while other areas across the citrus producing region had between one-half and two inches of rain. Lakes and rivers were average to above average levels due to the past several weeks of abundant rainfall. High temperatures reached the high 80s to low 90s on most days in all areas. Grove practices included herbiciding, mowing in preparation for harvest, fertilizing, spraying, and young tree care. Trees continued 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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