



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

Week ending September 27, 2009

DRIER CONDITIONS BOOSTING HAY HARVEST

WEATHER SUMMARY: Last week's high temperatures ranged from the high 80s to the mid-90s. Nighttime lows were mostly in the upper 60s, with the lower 70s reported across the southern Peninsula. Precipitation was scattered across the State with the central to southern Peninsula receiving the most rain. Less than a half-inch of precipitation was reported in locations across the Panhandle and Big Bend regions. Reporting stations in Miami-Dade, Lake, and Hernando counties received the most rainfall with 2.05, 1.52, and 1.14 inches, respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut condition was rated 27% fair, 36% good, and 37% excellent. Peanut harvesting was 27% complete compared to 28% last year at this time, and the 5 year average of 24%. Wet fields continue to hinder peanut harvesting. Some green peanuts were harvested for local use. Harvest should accelerate rapidly the next few weeks if drying continues. Cotton plants were getting much bigger than desired for harvest. Daily rains from the past weeks have prevented PIX applications. Rain has also caused hard lock in open cotton resulting in considerable loss in some fields. In Madison County, soybeans and iron clay peas were reported in good condition. Hay baling progressed as drier conditions allowed operators to cut fields. Quality of hay reported as poor in some areas due to grass being over mature. Armyworms were still causing problems in some fields. Field preparations for winter forages continue although behind schedule. Sugarcane was progressing under favorable conditions.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending September 27, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	27	28	24

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	0	3	0	0	3
Short	9	5	19	8	8	10
Adequate	73	70	63	66	65	71
Surplus	18	25	15	26	27	16

VEGETABLES: Land preparation for fall vegetables continued. In south Florida, growers laid plastic, planted, sprayed, and staked plants. Gadsden County reported that the beginning of tomato harvest was about a week away. Columbia County was harvesting sweet corn and cucumbers. String beans in Levy County were looking good. Wet conditions in the Hastings area were still preventing planting of seasonal vegetables.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was fair to excellent with most in good condition. Worm pressure was still significant. Summer pasture condition declined as the days grew shorter. Field preparation and planting of small grains for winter forage continued. The condition of cattle was fair to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pastures were poor to excellent. There was damage to pastures from armyworms. In the southwest, pasture condition varied from poor to excellent. Most pastures were in good condition, but some low lying areas ranged from very wet to flooded. Cattle condition was poor to excellent depending on the condition of the pasture. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most cattle 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	5	5
Fair	15	15	25	20
Good	60	65	55	60
Excellent	20	15	15	15

CITRUS: Scattered showers throughout this past week produced about one-half inch of rainfall across the citrus-producing areas. Rainfall was localized and highly variable. Umatilla in the northern citrus-producing region received about an inch and a half of rain, while Frostproof and Balm, in the central and western regions, each received less than a tenth of an inch. Temperatures were warm again this week reaching the lower 90s across the citrus-producing areas and dropping to the 60s and 70s at night. Eight packinghouses have opened and were accepting early oranges including Ambersweet and Navel varieties. Four processing plants opened. Three were shipping, while the fourth has begun accepting fruit from the field for processing. Clean up for harvest continued, as did herbicide application, irrigation maintenance, and caring for young trees. In addition, growers continued to survey groves for greening, treated trees for citrus psyllid, and removed infected trees.

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