

National Agricultural Summary

October 25 - 31, 2004

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation, with temperatures averaging over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal throughout the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, Delta, and across much of the Great Plains and Atlantic Coast States. The warm weather was favorable to winter wheat emergence, and summer crop development was mostly complete in these areas. Meanwhile, cool weather from the Rocky Mountains

westward limited winter wheat emergence and summer crop maturation, though showers caused only minimal fieldwork delays. Despite mostly dry weather, harvesting advanced slowly in the High Plains. Moderate precipitation fell across the middle and upper Mississippi Valley, hindering harvest of summer crops. Along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, dry weather prevailed, aiding in the cotton harvest.

Corn: Growers had harvested 65 percent of their acreage, 16 percentage points behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest progress remained well behind normal in the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Despite harvesting 17 percent of their crop during the week, Minnesota growers remained 2 weeks behind their normal pace. Progress was also 2 weeks behind normal in South Dakota, while North Dakota growers, hampered by moderate but persistent rainfall, were over 3 weeks behind normal.

Winter Wheat: Planting advanced to 89 percent complete, 3 points behind last year but the same as normal. Seventy-seven percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 76 percent last year and 74 percent for the 5-year average. Planting was at or near completion in the Rocky Mountains, while progress was behind normal in the Mississippi Valley, with Missouri producers trailing their normal pace by 2 weeks. Meanwhile, the crop emerged steadily in the Corn Belt, with emergence advancing 28 points in Illinois and 18 points or more in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

Soybeans: Harvest, at 84 percent complete, was 6 points behind last year and 5 points behind normal. Harvesting was hampered by frequent showers across much of the growing area, advancing only 4 points nationwide during the week. Growers harvested 9 percent of their acreage in Louisiana, 7 percent in Ohio, and 10 percent in Wisconsin but were limited to 5 percent or less elsewhere.

Cotton: Bolls were open on 94 percent of the acreage, compared with 96 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest advanced to 53 percent complete, the same as last year but 7 points behind normal. Bolls opening was at or near completion in all States, except Texas, where the stage was just 87 percent complete, over 2 weeks behind normal. Despite frequent showers, harvest advanced 22 points in Arizona and 15 points in California. Meanwhile, dry conditions across the Southeast allowed harvest to progress steadily, advancing 14 points in

Louisiana and 13 points in Alabama and Georgia. However, growers in Missouri and Tennessee were over 2 weeks behind their normal harvest pace, while Texas growers were 3 weeks behind.

Sorghum: Ninety-three percent of the crop had reached maturity, 4 points ahead of last year but 3 points behind normal. Producers had harvested 62 percent of the crop, compared with 70 percent last year and 82 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in the northern and central Great Plains, advancing 18 points in Nebraska, 17 points in South Dakota, and 15 points in Colorado. Growers were over 2 weeks behind their normal harvest pace in Kansas, Missouri, and New Mexico, while Texas producers were 6 weeks behind normal.

Other Crops: The peanut harvest advanced to 77 percent complete, 4 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Harvest neared completion in North Carolina, at 95 percent, and Virginia, at 98 percent, with progress ahead of normal in both States. However, harvest was behind the normal pace elsewhere, despite advancing 12 points in Alabama, 13 points in Georgia, and 14 points in Oklahoma.

Ninety percent of the sugar beet crop had been harvested, compared with 94 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest neared completion in the Red River Valley, at 98 percent complete in Minnesota and 97 percent complete in North Dakota. Michigan growers harvested nearly one-third of their acreage during the week but were 10 points behind normal.

Sunflower growers had harvested 25 percent of their acreage, 64 points behind last year and 51 points behind normal. With delayed maturation due to the cool summer, harvest progress was nearly 3 weeks behind normal nationwide. Kansas growers were over 2 weeks behind normal, while growers in the Dakotas trailed the normal pace by 3 weeks.