

ALASKA CROP-WEATHER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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P.O. Box 799
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RELEASED: September 29, 2008

GENERAL: There were **5.0 days suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 100% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were listed as 10% short, 90% adequate. **Barley** was 90% harvested. **Oats** were reported as 35% harvested. **Potatoes** were reported as 75% harvested. Second cutting **hay** was reported as 85% complete with most farms not getting a second cutting this year. Hay quality may also be an issue due to the wet summer. **Winter supplies of hay** were reported as 45% short, 55% adequate statewide. **Wind or rain damage** to crops was reported as 90% none, 5% light, 5% severe.

The main **farm activities** for the week were harvesting small grains, potatoes, hay and vegetables, baling straw and general maintenance.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY September 22 – September 28, 2008		
DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK: 5.0		
CROP	TOPSOIL MOISTURE	SUBSOIL MOISTURE
SHORT	0%	10%
ADEQUATE	100%	90%
SURPLUS	0%	0%
PAN EVAPORATION FOR 09/22 – 09/28 MAT AES SITE: -0.156		

TANANA VALLEY: An average of **6.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**. Killing frosts were reported in both Fairbanks and Delta Junction. Delta Junction also received an inch of snow. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 100% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 15% short, 85% adequate. **Barley** was reported as 90% harvested. **Oats** were reported as 35% harvested. **Potatoes** were reported as 80% harvested. Second cutting **hay** was reported as 95% complete; however, many fields will not get a second cutting. No **wind or rain damage** was reported. **Farm activities** for the week included harvesting small grains, potatoes and hay, drying grain, baling straw and general maintenance.

MATANUSKA VALLEY: An average of **5.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**. Temperatures dipped down into the 20's across much of the Mat-Su Valleys. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 100% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 5% short, 95% adequate. **Potatoes** were 75% harvested with lower than average yields being reported. Second cutting **hay** was reported as 80% complete, with hay fields still being cut. However, many fields will not get a second cutting this year. **Wind or rain damage** was reported as 80% none, 20% light. Major **farm activities** during the week included harvesting hay, native grass seeds, potatoes and vegetables and general maintenance,

KENAI PENINSULA: There was **1.0 day suitable for fieldwork last week**. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 100% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was also reported as 100% adequate. **Potatoes** were 30% harvested. Second cutting **hay** was still 40% complete. **Wind or rain damage** was reported as 60% none, 40% severe, with damage reported to hay fields. Major **farm activities** for the week included harvesting hay and vegetables and general maintenance.

Soil Temperatures (F⁰) at 4 inch depth

	Grass			Fallow land			Temperature		Precip
	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006	High	Low	(inches)
UAF-AFES, Trunk Road	46	48	47	41	47	42	55	29	.30
Sawmill Creek	38	na	41	na	na	na	53	13	.00
Plant Materials Center	41	na	44	na	na	na	54	28	.14

PAN EVAPORATION

Pan evaporation is an indirect estimation of evapotranspiration or consumptive water use by plants. For purposes of watering or irrigation of plants, it is a good indicator of climatic effects on water use by crops. A positive reading indicates that evaporation exceeded precipitation.

Weather Summary For Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service
 Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday September 22, 2008
 To: Sunday September 28, 2008

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 08 - September 28, 08 GDD					
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
Fairbanks_Intl	55	27	40	+2	0.05	2	10.30	+3.75	64	871	-68	2225
Fairbanks/Eiels	53	21	37	-3	0.02	1	14.87	+6.66	71	573	-322	1836
Nenana_Muni_AM	51	27	38	+1	0.02	2	10.49	+4.27	63	621	-180	1883
Ftgreely/Allen	50	22	38	-1	0.02	2	11.12	+2.09	61	519	-339	1799
Healy_River_Air	46	25	38	-2	0.15	4	7.35	-2.26	83	410	-259	1580
Gulkana_Arpt_A	49	22	38	-2	0.03	2	8.02	+0.88	65	291	-194	1460
Sutton	50	33	41	-2	0.45	7	10.66	+0.47	112	230	-282	1397
Palmer_Municipa	55	34	44	+0	0.19	3	5.81	-3.01	55	509	-168	1860
Talkeetna	54	27	41	-1	0.44	5	11.53	-4.47	72	501	-161	1774
Willow_Airport	54	30	42	-3	0.35	5	10.57	+1.92	101	599	-58	1934
Anchorage_Intl	54	32	43	-1	0.46	4	10.34	+1.19	57	463	-221	1758
Kenai_Municipal	57	29	45	+2	0.65	3	7.36	-2.22	66	405	+5	1647
Homer	54	32	45	+0	0.55	3	9.44	+0.45	69	216	-149	1377
Kodiak	55	33	46	-1	0.63	3	47.31	+19.67	87	240	-151	1365

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This will be the last Crop-Weather Report for the season. A special thanks to all those who contributed data for this report. Your help was invaluable in answering the many questions this interesting crop year generated. Also thanks to those who called in with questions and comments on this publication. We'll publish the next report the first week in May 2009