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Cooperating with Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Week Ending March 19, 2017

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Louisiana, there were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 19, 2017. Topsoil moisture supplies were 2 percent very short, 15 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were 1 percent very short, 10 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Low temperatures ranged from 34.0 degrees Fahrenheit at Homer to 50.1 degrees Fahrenheit at Morgan City. Highs ranged from 57.0 degrees Fahrenheit at Saint Joseph and Hodges Gardens to 68.0 degrees Fahrenheit at Alexandria and Morgan City. Cool yet dry conditions were prevalent throughout most of the state which accounted for good conditions for growth. The north central part of the state recording the highest average of rain concentration at 0.17 inches.

Crop progress for week ending March 19, 2017

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	35	10	NA	23
Rice, planted	21	5	NA	12
Winter Wheat, headed	22	2	NA	NA

NA = Not Available.

Crop condition for week ending March 19, 2017

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Livestock	3	10	35	47	5
Pasture	5	13	37	40	5
Sugarcane	1	4	34	52	9
Vegetables	3	8	37	46	6
Winter Wheat	2	9	54	34	1

Comments from Cooperative Extension Service Parish Agents

“Sweet potato bedding has started, with some producers already completed bedding. Corn planting began last week with ideal weather conditions forecasted for this week. A lot of corn will go in the ground this week as well. Greenhouse plants are looking good and some early transplant will go out this week.”

– Bruce Garner, West Carroll Parish

“Fields are beginning to dry, and growers are slowly able to get back to planting corn. Most were able to put some fertilizer down where corn was planted and fields were not too saturated from the rains in previous weeks.”

– Mark Carriere, Pointe Coupee Parish

“Rice is being planted at a rapid pace, both water and drill seeded. Winter pastures continue to provide excellent grazing, warm season grasses are being to grow with warm conditions.”

– Todd Fontenot, Evangeline Parish

“Rice planting made excellent progress. Stand establishment has been good as well. A rain wouldn't hurt for soil moisture and herbicide activity. Sugarcane is well ahead with the warm weather we've experienced, many farmers are fertilizing. Pastures have greened up and winter feeding and haying has ceased in most cases. Spring calving continues.”

– Andrew Granger, Vermilion Parish

“Sugarcane farmers are all but finished spraying for weeds. Cultivation has started as they are starting to put out fertilizer. Cattle producers are wrapping up calving season and utilizing rye grass pastures. Crawfish prices continue to be low, but the catch is good though it did slow down with the cool weather. Home gardens are being planted and despite a little set back with the cool weather are off to a good start.”

– Blair Hebert, Iberia Parish

“Mild temperatures combined with good soil moisture continues to benefit good growing and production conditions.”

– Rene' Schmit, Saint John Parish

Louisiana Weather Summary for Week Ending March 19, 2017

Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	Rain Days	DFN	Four Weeks	Four Weeks DFN
Northwest										
Minden	62.0	40.0	51.0	55.6	-4.5	0.17	1	-0.72	2.70	-1.84
Mooringsport	60.8	41.0	50.9	56.7	-5.6	NA	NA	NA	3.33	-0.40
Red River	NA	NA	NA	56.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.31	-1.53
Shreveport	64.7	42.9	53.8	56.6	-2.8	0.06	1	-0.89	1.86	-2.38
Extreme/Average	62.5	41.3	51.9	56.5	-4.3	0.12	1	-0.80	2.30	-1.54
North Central										
Calhoun	NA	NA	NA	55.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Farmerville	61.7	42.7	52.2	56.4	-4.2	0.17	2	-0.80	4.62	1.05
Homer	59.0	34.0	46.5	54.2	-7.5	0.17	2	-0.62	3.75	-0.89
Extreme/Average	60.4	38.4	49.3	55.3	-5.9	0.17	2	-0.71	4.19	0.08
Northeast										
Lake Providence	59.1	41.4	50.3	55.7	-5.4	0.15	1	-0.76	4.94	2.18
St Joseph	57.0	35.8	46.4	58.3	-11.8	NA	NA	NA	1.87	-2.39
Tallulah	63.1	43.7	53.4	57.4	-4.0	0.15	1	-1.02	3.85	-0.92
Winnsboro	NA	NA	NA	57.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.37	0.79
Extreme/Average	59.7	40.3	50.0	57.2	-7.1	0.15	1	-0.89	3.76	-0.08
West Central										
Ashland	NA	NA	NA	56.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hodges Gardens	57.0	35.7	46.3	58.2	-11.3	NA	NA	NA	1.58	-2.47
Leesville	66.9	45.1	56.0	58.9	-2.9	0.01	1	-1.00	2.91	-1.55
Natchitoches	65.1	45.0	55.1	59.0	-3.9	0.03	1	-1.16	1.55	-2.71
Extreme/Average	63.0	41.9	52.5	58.2	-6.0	0.02	1	-1.08	2.01	-2.24
Central										
Alexandria	68.0	40.1	54.1	59.3	-5.2	0.09	1	-1.05	3.20	-1.87
Bunkie	63.3	45.1	54.2	59.7	-5.5	0.01	1	-1.07	2.83	-1.76
Eunice	NA	NA	NA	61.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jonesville Locks	66.8	44.7	55.8	58.0	-2.3	0.10	1	-0.94	3.91	-0.37
New Roads	61.0	40.0	50.5	60.2	-9.4	NA	NA	NA	4.50	0.71
Extreme/Average	64.8	42.5	53.6	59.8	-5.6	0.07	1	-1.02	3.61	-0.82
East Central										
Baton Rouge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	-1.00	3.39	-1.36
Hammond	NA	NA	NA	59.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Norwood	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.08	1	NA	4.70	NA
Slidell	64.7	45.9	55.3	NA	NA	0.08	2	NA	1.68	NA
Extreme/Average	64.7	45.9	55.3	59.8	NA	0.08	2	-1.00	3.26	-1.36
Southwest										
Crowley	63.0	42.5	52.8	60.6	-7.6	0.00	0	-0.61	2.19	-1.39
DeRidder	NA	NA	NA	60.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jennings	66.4	45.9	56.1	60.7	-4.5	0.02	2	-0.87	1.95	-1.87
Oberlin Fire	60.6	40.2	50.4	60.5	-9.8	0.00	0	-0.66	2.41	-1.58
Extreme/Average	63.3	42.9	53.1	60.5	-7.3	0.01	2	-0.71	2.18	-1.61
South Central										
Donaldsonville	66.1	44.4	55.3	60.9	-5.6	0.05	2	-0.84	3.08	-1.10
Jeanerette	62.2	44.8	53.5	61.5	-7.8	0.02	1	-0.57	3.03	-0.46
Lafayette	NA	NA	NA	60.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Morgan City	68.0	50.1	59.1	61.3	-2.2	0.07	1	-0.83	1.87	-1.82
Extreme/Average	65.4	46.4	56.0	61.1	-5.2	0.05	2	-0.75	2.66	-1.13
Southeast										
Galliano	65.3	46.7	56.0	62.3	-6.3	0.10	1	-0.95	2.61	-1.79
Gonzales	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0	-1.01	3.17	-1.35
Grand Isle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Orleans	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00	NA
Extreme/Average	65.3	46.7	56.0	62.3	-6.3	0.05	1	-0.98	1.93	-1.57
State	63.3	42.9	53.1	59.1	-5.4	0.08	1	-0.88	2.92	-1.11

DFN = Departure from Normal.

Normal = Averaged Collected Data from the Years 1981-2010.

NA = Not Available.