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Missouri Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending May 4, 2008

Agricultural Summary

A few days of warmer weather allowed farmers to return to the fields. However, rains the latter part of the week further hampered spring planting and other field activities. Producers in the northern and central parts of the State are considering switching acres from corn to soybeans if planting delays still occur over the next 10 days. Some farm buildings were damaged as a result of a tornado in the southern part of Dunklin County. **Spring tillage** is 33 percent complete, over a month behind both last year and normal. **Topsoil moisture** rates 62 percent adequate and 38 surplus. **Subsoil moisture** rates 2 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus, with some slight dryness in the east central district. There were 3.0 **days suitable for fieldwork**.

Field Crops Report

Corn planting advanced 15 percentage points over last week to 23 percent complete, more than two weeks behind last year and three weeks behind normal. Progress in the Bootheel continued to accelerate from last week to 68 percent complete, while the slowest pace is the west central and northern part of the State. Corn emergence is at 7 percent, 12 days behind last year and 19 days behind normal. **Soybean** planting was minimal over the past week. Two percent of the crop is planted. Rice planting is 39 percent complete, 8 days behind last year and 9 days behind normal. **Rice** emergence is at 4 percent complete, 12 days behind last year and 14 days behind normal. **Cotton** planting stands at 19 percent complete, 7 days behind last year and 8 days behind normal. **Sorghum** planting is 4 percent complete, compared with 12 percent last year and 20 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter wheat** condition for the State is rated 6 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 5 percent excellent, a slight deterioration from last week. Eleven percent of the winter wheat crop has headed, over a week behind last year and normal. The first cutting of alfalfa is 2 percent harvested, 12 days behind last year and 3 days behind normal. Other hay cutting is getting started, with 1 percent harvested statewide.

Pasture & Livestock

Pasture condition is rated 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Pasture conditions at the State level improved 5 points from

last week in the good to excellent categories. However, pasture conditions did not improve due to wet, cool temperatures in the west central, central, and northeast parts of the State. **Hay supply** is rated 13 percent very short, 28 percent short, 56 adequate, and 3 percent surplus. The worst shortages were across the northern part of the State. **Stock water supplies** are rated 84 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus.

Weather Summary

Missouri **temperatures** during the past week were 2 to 5 degrees below normal throughout the state, with the warmest area being the Bootheel. Statewide **rainfall** averaged 0.79 inches for the week. The southwest district recorded the lowest average at 0.43 inches while the southeast district recorded the highest average at 1.69 inches, with Butler, Dunklin, and Scott counties receiving over 2 inches.

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