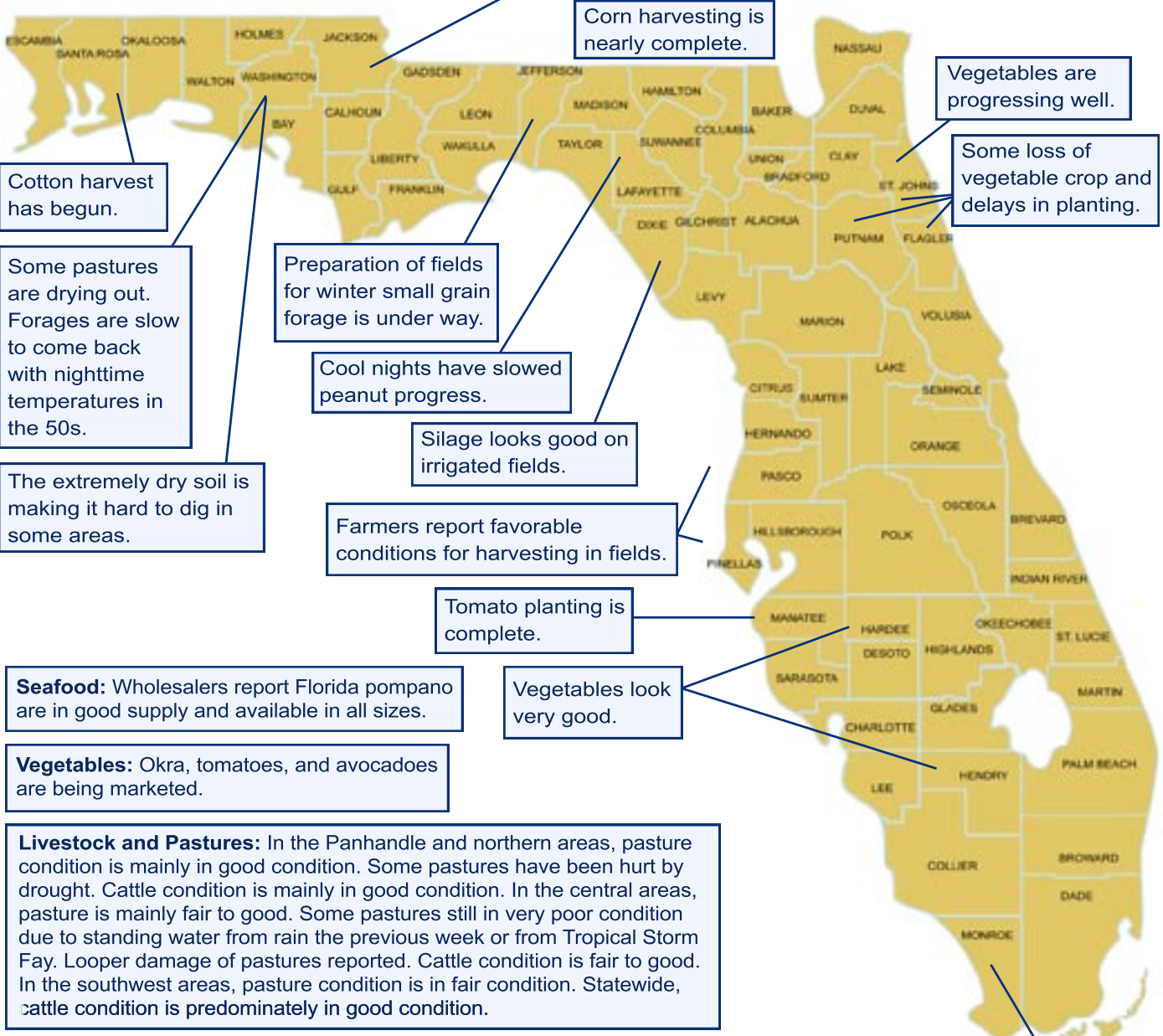


The Week in Florida Agriculture

September 22-28, 2008

Peanut condition is rated 34 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Peanut digging is 30 percent complete, compared with 22 percent this time last year, and a five-year average progress of 29 percent.



Reports of field work delays due to excessive rainfall.

Citrus: Weather patterns brought cooler temperatures to citrus producing areas. All areas except Immokalee dropped to the low 60s at least one night during the week. Rainfall was nominal in four of the seven monitored areas. Rainfall early in the week totaled over 1 inch in Fort Pierce. Immokalee and Sebring had one-half inch. Normal grove maintenance activity includes irrigating, spraying, mowing, pulling out old trees, and preparing for harvest. Growers are actively scouting for greening and spraying to reduce the psyllid population or making the decision to push trees affected with the disease. Owners with groves next to abandoned citrus that lack psyllid control have concerns. Overall, cared-for trees look good with heavy foliage and healthy fruit. Over a dozen packinghouses have opened and are running fruit. Varieties going fresh include Fallglo tangerines, grapefruit, Ambersweet, and Navel oranges. Only one processing plant has opened so far this season.