The Week in Florida Agriculture July 28 - August 3, 2009

Peanut pegging continues with 80 percent complete compared with 94 percent this time last year, and a Planting of the five-year average of 93 percent. Peanut condition is rated Field corn is fall tomato crop 20 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. being harvested. is under way. HOLMES ESCAMBIA OKALOOSA SANTA ROSA JACKSON NASSALL GADSDEN TON WASHINGTON Due to wet HAMILTON conditions, hay MADISON CALHOUN LEON COLUMBIA SUWANNEE yield is good WAKULLA but quality is LIBERTY UNION BRADFORD below normal. Sovbeans ST. JOHNS FRANKLIN are in good DIXIE GILCHRIST ALACHUA Armyworm condition. PUTNAM FLAGLER infestations Cotton is in are heavy fair condition. LEVY Hay cutting in pastures, continues. sod farms Watermelon harvest is and forage nearing completion. CITRUS Corn silage harvest is SEMINOLE crops. Growers report a good complete. Fields are crop for the season. HERNANDO too wet for hay cutting. ORANGE PASCO OSCEOLA BREVARD Seafood: Red grouper, black grouper, amberjack, king mackerel, clams, HILLSBOROUGH yellow fin tuna are plentiful. Florida's spiny lobster season opens August 6. PINELLAS INDIAN RIVER Atlantic Coast offshore bottom fishermen, both recreational and commercial, have new regulations for taking most grouper species and MANATEE OKEECHOBEE ST. LUCIE vermilion snapper. The regulations by the NOAA Fisheries Service for the HIGHLANDS DESOTO South Atlantic Region are now in effect. The new rules are known as SARASOTA Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper MARTIN GLADES Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. CHARLOTTE Fields are being Livestock and Pastures: In the Panhandle and northern PALM BEACH areas, afternoon showers continue to keep forage growth prepared for planting of at or near seasonal normal. Pasture grass has caught up the fall vegetable crop. with grazing demand. Cattle are in fair to excellent BROWARD condition with most in good condition. In the central areas, COLLIER regular summer rains are benefiting pasture grass growth. DADE Pasture in some locations is in very poor to poor condition Soil moisture due to drought. In the southern areas, locally heavy rains MONROE is adequate have caused localized flooding. Statewide, cattle are in in most areas. poor to excellent condition with most fair to good.

Citrus: All citrus growing areas experienced seasonally hot and humid weather for the week. Daily highs reached the low to mid-90s in all monitored areas. The warmest temperature was in Lake Alfred at 96 degrees. Rainfall amounts ranged from one-half inch in Balm to 4.5 inches in Arcadia. Trees and fruit look good in well-tended groves. Some trees have new growth where they were hedged and topped earlier in the year. The new crop is showing various sizes of grapefruit with more consistent sizes of oranges. Caretakers are busy marking and bulldozing unproductive trees, herbiciding, mowing and fertilizing. Some growers are combating canker with additional copper spraying during the rainy season. Growers are using both aerial and ground spraying to reduce the citrus psyllid population that spreads greening.

Okra and boniato (white or Cuban sweet potato) is being harvested. This year's longan crop is abundant.