

# SoyFax: Midsouth

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

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Here is this week's *SoyFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Valor™ and Select® herbicides.

## OVERVIEW

Parts of the upper Delta remain flooded after weekend storms dumped more rain onto the already soaked countryside. Soybean planting is falling further behind, and more replanting is expected. While everyone in the north Delta tries to cope with the rain, areas south of Alexander, La., remain critically dry.

The following reports were made Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** "We need to do a lot of spraying, but it's been too wet to make much progress. Areas around Shelby got another 4" of rain over the weekend. We can kill what's there as far as weeds go, but we need to take care of it pretty soon.

"Some vegetation is as big as the

soybeans, and I'm afraid if it goes much longer it could have an effect on yields. Roundup Ready acreage is up this year, and it amounts to about 70% of the crop. That's great unless we have a year like this with no residual to hold things back when we can't spray."

**Michael Browning, Tri-County Farmers Association, Brinkley, Ark.:** "What small amount of our soybeans that are up look okay. But a pretty good portion probably will be replanted. This last big system gave us another 3.5" to 5" of rain. We had hoped to hit soybean planting pretty hard this week, but now we'll have to put it off until next week."

**John Hedden, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.:** "Very few soybeans have been planted, not even 5%. It's probably a good thing, too. Otherwise, we'd be replanting a lot more. I saw a couple of hillsides that will make it, but anything that was freshly planted last week probably won't make a stand after we got another 6-7" of rain. Some areas have measured up to 15" in May. Everything is at a standstill."

**David Strohl, Aerial Applicator/Grower, Skarda Flying Service, Inc., Tollville, Ark.:** "In this area, maybe 5% of the soybeans have been planted. Weather has been the holdup. We're waiting for fields to dry up, and grass is getting bad where we're waiting to plant. A burndown may be required on some of this bigger grass to take out the early competition."

**Terry Erwin, Morehouse Parish Extension agent, Bastrop, La.:** "I can sum up everything in one word: wet. Some of our soybeans are getting wooly because we can't treat. In other places they were able to treat, and fields look pretty good. Corn is doing well. It loves this kind of weather. Over the last 30 days we've had 8-10" of rain, with some of it coming 4-5" at a time. North of I-20 we've gotten an abundance of rain, but it gets drier as you head south of there."

**Harold Lambert, Ind. Consultant, Innis, La.:** "We got small showers last week that will help. One strip picked up 1". But we still need more rain. It's getting questionable about whether we'll plant all our intended

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## VALOR™ Buys You Time When Weeds Grow Fast

With recent rainfall in parts of the Delta, weeds are moving fast. Making *Valor* part of your soybean burndown program gives you more flexibility. It enhances burndown activity and provides important residual control. You often can wait several more days to make that first postemergence treatment in Roundup Ready® beans. And in many cases a burndown tank mix with *Valor* eliminates a second postemergence application altogether by holding weeds in check until beans canopy.

cotton acreage and may have to fall back on soybeans. We have almost no soybeans up to a stand yet. Corn is in a little better shape than a year ago. This month hasn't been as cold as May 2002."

**Keith Baioni, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Hollandale, Miss.:** "We caught 1" of rain over the weekend, and that was the first we've had since sometime in mid April. We've missed all the torrential rainfall they've had north of Cleveland. One or two growers have been waiting for enough moisture to plant soybeans, but just about everyone else is finished. Beans look pretty good. We've been able to make timely Roundup treatments. Nobody has felt like they've needed to irrigate beans yet.

"We've watered corn, and it looks good. Chinch bugs required treatment in some spots 2 weeks ago. Moth numbers picked up pretty substantially in a couple of locations, with counts into the upper 200s. But I'm also hearing of some counts topping 500."

**Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.:** "We just got 1" to 2.5" of much needed rain. All of our MG IVs planted before it got so dry are doing pretty well now. They're at the 5th to 6th trifoliate, and some are beginning to bloom. A lot of MG Vs and VIs have yet to be planted.

"Insects in corn have been minimal, and we haven't treated anything. We were getting to the point that chinch bugs were a concern, but the rain probably eliminated that."

**Blaine Koch, Accounting Manager and Grain Merchandiser, G&H Seed Co., Crowley, La.:** "We're still dry. Less than 5% of our soybeans have been planted compared with about 60% this time last year."

**David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist:** "Rains improved things on a wider basis last week and early this week, but we still have extremely dry areas that start

about 20 miles south of Alexandria. North of there, we've had ample rain and in some cases way too much. Wet conditions are delaying soybean planting.

"Soybean planting started in a big way in some of the drier areas that just got rain. I toured a good deal of the state early this week and saw a lot of seed moving toward the field. If we don't catch another rain today (Wednesday) or tomorrow, a good deal will get planted this week. I'm afraid, though, that some areas that were freshly planted in northeast Louisiana will have to be replanted after big rains last Friday and Saturday.

"We're getting some reports of beanleaf beetle damage. But weeds are our main pest right now. Plenty of fields need to be sprayed, but it's too wet to get rigs across them. We'll probably need adjustments to rates in Roundup Ready fields and some tankmix partners for larger weeds.

"Corn looks very favorable. We've seen some corn tasseling a little early due to drought stress, but 80% is moving along about right."

**Angela Thompson, Tennessee Extension Soybean Specialist:** "All the rain since last week continues to delay planting. The best estimate is that 10% of our soybeans are planted, mainly in Middle Tennessee where there's less cotton and more corn. About 90% of our corn has been planted. Of that, it's estimated that 20% will have to be replanted or go to another crop. I've heard of up to 12" rainfall accumulations in some places since May 4."

**Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist:** "Very few replanting decisions are being made yet because it's too wet to get into a lot of fields. And in many cases there won't be any option but to replant, since water has been covering the field since Friday night.

"The worst of it appears to be in northeast Arkansas, though we've

had heavy rainfall in a number of areas. But farther south, it hasn't rained nearly as much in some pockets. I was in southeast Arkansas yesterday (Tuesday) and talked to several farmers trying to plant that day. It was a little sticky, but they should be able to get in the field today. Chicot County starts planting a lot of its crop in April, and about 80% of the beans there are finished, compared to about 30% planted in the rest of the state."

**Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:** "This is the most mixed bag of crop conditions I've every seen. It ranges from flooding in the north Delta to areas in the south Delta that just now got rain. And those areas in the south Delta still face an imminent risk of flooding once all that water in the upper part of the state hits the floodgates on the lower Yazoo.

"The wettest areas are north of Mississippi 8, and you can pretty much draw a line from Cleveland east across the state. Above that line, 8-13" of rain have fallen in a lot of locations in the first two weeks of May, then some picked up another 5-6" last weekend.

"I'm encouraging folks not to be too premature on replanting decisions. Let things dry out and make an informed decision. Some ends, of course, drowned out, but don't write off the whole field.

"Our main challenge now is cleaning up fields. Some haven't seen a tractor in 3 weeks. We need to scout closely and use the right combination of materials and rates for the species and size we're finding. I don't think we're to the point yet that yields are affected much by competition, but we're starting to move into a time frame where it could be a factor.

"There's nothing we can do about that at the moment. But we need to be ready to move quickly and logically when things open up for spraying."