

NWS Form E-5 (04-2006) (PRES. BY NWS Instruction 10-924)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) WFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE LA
		REPORT FOR: MONTH YEAR AUGUST 2008
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		SIGNATURE KENNETH GRAHAM, MIC
TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31 NOAA's National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		DATE SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

... STORMS RELIEVE DROUGHT CONDITIONS OVER MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA...

August began with thunderstorms that produced rain totals of 1.0 to 2.0 inches, mainly over the Florida Parishes and southeast Louisiana. Isolated locations had over two inches, mainly on August 2nd.

On August 4th, Tropical Storm Edouard was positioned off the Louisiana Coast. "Edouard" made landfall early August 5th near the Louisiana – Texas border and brought needed rain to the region. After a brief reprieve, a cold front came through on August 8th with more thunderstorms. This front became stationary along the Gulf Coast and then moved north as a warm front on August 10th. During this week, Houma measured 5.34 inches and Morgan City measured 4.24 inches. Areal rainfall for the week ending August 10th ranged from 0.40 inch to 1.60 inches for extreme southeast Louisiana.

This same frontal boundary persisted in part for nearly two weeks, keeping the region in a wet pattern. The rains helped mitigate the drought conditions over Mississippi and Louisiana. For the week of August 11th through 17th, rain amounts of more 4.0 inches developed at many locations. New Orleans Lakefront recorded 6.30 inches. Areal average rainfall amounts were 2.0 to 3.8 inches. An upper-level disturbance induced more thunderstorms on August 21st and 22nd. Areal rainfall amounts for the week ending August 24th ranged from 1.25 to 2.0 inches.

On August 25th, Tropical Depression Fay was located around southern Mississippi. Widespread rain developed over the region before "Fay" moved northeast on August 26th. For that week, areal rainfall amounts ranged from 1.20 over east central Louisiana to 1.81 inches over southeast Louisiana. As the month ended, Hurricane Gustav entered the Gulf of Mexico and traveled along a trajectory that brought "Gustav" to Louisiana on September 1st.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest/South Central Mississippi (3 Sites)	6.74	+1.86
Coastal Mississippi	8.51	+2.82
Central Louisiana (3 Sites)	8.57	+2.43
East Central Louisiana	8.44	+2.93
South Central Louisiana (5 Sites)	9.24	+3.20
Southeast Louisiana	10.76	+4.46

Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)

Boothville, LA	14.08	+8.17	Houma, LA	12.33	+5.60
Baton Rouge Concord, LA	13.23	+7.32	Grand Isle, LA	12.19	+5.97
Terrytown, LA	13.16		Covington 4 NNW, LA	12.15	+6.86

Drought...

Normal soil conditions persisted over coastal Mississippi and most of southeastern Louisiana at the start of August. Soils were abnormally dry (D0) along the Mississippi-Louisiana border and across southwest Mississippi. Conditions were worse in Wilkinson County and over half of Amite County, where moderate drought (D1) conditions persisted. During the first part of August, soil moisture levels deteriorated and the drought expanded.

Around August 12th and thereafter, soil conditions steadily improved due to beneficial rains from the tropical storms systems and front-induced thunderstorms over the region. By August 26th, soil conditions had returned to normal levels over all of southeastern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi and coastal Mississippi.