

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</b>	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR:	
		MONTH <b>JANUARY</b>	YEAR <b>2012</b>
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE <b>FEBRUARY 15, 2012</b>	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, 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.

*...January Rainfall Helps to Diminish Drought Conditions For Some Areas...*

A series of frontal boundaries crossed southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi over the first part of the month, though the only rain occurred on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Areal average rainfall totals for the weather week ending January 8<sup>th</sup> were less than 0.10 inch.

Copious rainfall occurred after January 9<sup>th</sup>, when a cold front from the previous week stalled along the Gulf coast and an area of low pressure developed along the boundary. The greatest rain totals occurred over the parishes of central and east-central Louisiana and over southwest Mississippi. Woodville, MS measured 5.04 inches, which was 3.37 inches above the week's normal. By January 15<sup>th</sup>, areal rainfall totals averaged from 0.23 inch to over 2.0 inches.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, a cold front triggered widespread severe weather before it stalled around the coastline on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The heaviest rains developed over southwest and south central Mississippi, where 3.43 inches fell at Woodville and 3.14 inches fell at McComb. The next weather system exacerbated the soggy conditions from January 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. With the repeated downpours, areal average rain totals for the week ending January 22<sup>nd</sup> ranged from near 0.20 inch over southern Louisiana to around 2.25 inches over parts of southern Mississippi.

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and downpours rocked the latter part of January. Several locations in east-central Louisiana measured over 4.0 inches by January 29<sup>th</sup>, though most rain totals were 1.0 to 3.5 inches for the week. Areal average totals ranged from 1.12 inches up to near 3.0 inches over parts of southern Mississippi and central Louisiana.

**Flooding...**

In December 2011, flooding developed on the Atchafalaya River at Morgan City and at Bogalusa on the Lower Pearl River. The river fell below flood stage at Bogalusa by January 4<sup>th</sup> and flooding ended at Morgan City on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Repeated bouts of heavy rainfall produced flooding at several locations by late January. Flooding developed in Mississippi on the Tangipahoa River near Osyka and on the Bogue Chitto River near Tylertown. In Louisiana, the Tangipahoa River rose above flood stage at Robert and the Bogue Chitto River rose above flood stage at Bush. Flooding also developed on the Tickfaw River near Liverpool and on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa and Pearl River. By February 1<sup>st</sup>, only the Lower Pearl River remained in flood.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	9.74	N/A
South Central Mississippi (2 Sites)	6.30	-0.38
Coastal Mississippi	1.99	-4.34
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	5.48	-0.93
East Central Louisiana	3.87	-2.39
South Central Louisiana (6 Sites)	2.90	-2.82
Southeast Louisiana	1.85	-3.93

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

Woodville, MS	12.28	+5.13	Galliano, LA	1.19	-4.66
McComb (MCB), MS	10.29	+3.57	Wiggins, MS	0.76	-5.47
Clinton, LA	8.97	+1.91	Ansley, MS	0.34	

**Drought...**

Soil conditions were at normal levels over southwest and south central Mississippi, where copious rainfall occurred in late December and throughout January. At the start of the month, the remainder of the region was in moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought. Extreme drought (D3) conditions were established from Terrebonne Parish northeast to St. Bernard Parish of southeastern Louisiana, where rainfall was scarcer in December 2011 and again in January.

Copious rainfall during January yielded slight improvements to the soil moisture deficiencies over some areas. By January 31<sup>st</sup>, soil moisture improved over south-central and central Louisiana; those areas' soils became normal to abnormally dry (D0). Drought severity remained at moderate to severe levels across the remainder of the region, while extreme drought persisted over extreme southeastern Louisiana.