

# Dry Weather Helps As Ark Cotton, Soy Harvest Wind Down

**DEVALLS BLUFF, ARK.** Harvest time is winding down in Arkansas with row crop growers capitalizing on the dry weather, agents for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service said Friday.

The state’s rice harvest was complete, according to Wednesday’s hurricane-delayed report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Cotton wasn’t far behind with 90 percent of the crop harvested and soybeans were 84 percent out of the fields. Meanwhile, winter wheat continues to be broadcast, with 55 percent of the crop planted and 34 percent of it emerged. “Harvest is going well, though with some rain delays along the way,” said Keith Perkins, Lonoke County extension agent for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The biggest delay was caused by the remnants of Hurricane Isaac. “Even though we started our crops early, the harvest is a little later than average.” Still, “the crops turned out well and everybody’s pretty satisfied,” he said. This season’s crops may have another satisfied customer: “one Prairie County grower commented on Hurricane Isaac’s effects and all the

lodged rice, saying, ‘At least the sky carp – snow geese – will eat good this year’,” said Brent Griffin, Prairie County extension staff chair. The grower added, “Hope they stay out of my wheat.” Many growers done for the 2012 season are doing fieldwork for 2013 spring planting and “farmers are beginning to total crop receipts and paying off crop loans, ordering needed machinery for next year and purchasing inputs accordingly,” Griffin said. While the string of sunny days has helped row crop growers, it has also staved off drought recovery. According to Friday’s U.S. Drought Monitor, drought has reclaimed a tiny area of Arkansas. Areas of no drought declined from 6.52 percent last week to 6.44 percent this week. The most intense drought area has stubbornly clung to existence, remaining at .63 percent of the state and including the same parts of eastern Searcy, western Stone and a sliver of southern Baxter County. High winds earlier this week drawn by Hurricane Sandy’s tremendous pull helped keep things dry, and with only a slim chance for rain this weekend, dry areas could expand. Δ

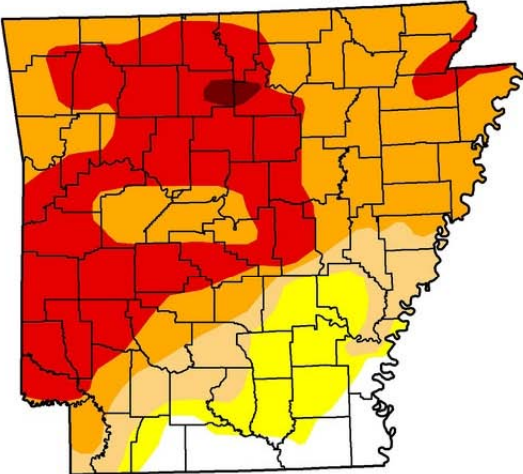


Field of soybeans in Lonoke Co., Ark., just waiting a turn with the combine.  
(U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture photo by Mary Hightower)

## U.S. Drought Monitor October 30, 2012 Arkansas Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.44	93.56	83.34	73.01	35.62	0.63
Last Week (10/23/2012 map)	6.52	93.48	83.34	73.01	35.63	0.63
3 Months Ago (07/31/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	99.66	96.12	80.63	44.46
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	86.20	13.80	3.95	1.06	0.23	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.11	99.89	91.37	73.93	41.99	8.74
One Year Ago (10/25/2011 map)	4.08	95.92	69.87	33.69	16.37	2.22

- Intensity:**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Drought - Moderate
  - D2 Drought - Severe
  - D3 Drought - Extreme
  - D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Released Thursday, November 1, 2012  
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

Oct. 30 Drought Monitor Map.  
(image courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor)



Link Directly To: CACHE RIVER



Link Directly To: **PIONEER**