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November Agricultural Summary

Temperatures throughout the month of November were warmer than normal for much of the country, reaching as many as 9 degrees above average in the northern Great Plains and Minnesota. Drier weather blanketed much of the Great Plains, Midwest, and Delta, promoting the rapid harvest of corn and soybeans and the seeding of over-wintered small grains. Elsewhere, excessive precipitation in areas of the Southeast hampered peanut and cotton harvest and caused lodging in some unharvested cotton fields.

With 56 percent of the peanut crop harvested by November 1, progress was 21 points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was active throughout the major growing regions during the week ending November 8, with producers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Texas, the 4 largest peanut-producing States, harvesting 14 percent or more of their crop. Tropical Storm Ida came ashore mid-month, dumping above average precipitation on much of the Southeast and slowing harvest progress. On November 29, harvest had advanced to 92 percent complete, 7 points behind last year and 6 points behind the average. Progress was complete or ahead of normal in all estimating States except Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The most significant delay remained in Alabama where progress was over 1 month behind normal. Overall, 66 percent of the peanut crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest passed the halfway point during the week ending November 1.