



The  
**Alabama**  
Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

**MAY 2023**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



# Volume 15, Number 1 :: MAY 2023



Alabama experienced a rather uneventful May with slightly cooler and drier than normal conditions. Statewide, the average temperature was 0.5°F cooler than the long-term average of 70.7°F. Rainfall was 0.73 inches drier than the long-term average of 4.24 inches. It should be mentioned that May was the first month this year to experience colder than normal average temperatures.

While most of Alabama experienced cooler than normal temperatures throughout the month, from the 6th through the 18th, most of the state was warmer than normal due to a persistent ridge of high pressure. During this stretch of warmer weather, 57 stations across the state recorded temperatures at or above 90°F. The Andalusia-Opp Airport recorded the warmest temperature of the month at 98°F on the 15th. In contrast, during the first few colder than normal days of May, four stations (Lafayette 2W, Valley Head 1 SSW, Moulton 2, and a station in DeSota State Park) recorded the coldest temperature of the month at 35°F.

In terms of precipitation, the majority of the state was drier than normal for the month of May. However, parts of the state were wetter than normal around portions of south Alabama as well as the region around Talladega, thanks to fortunate storm tracks. In fact, a station in Talladega recorded the highest amount of rainfall for the month at 10.12 inches. In contrast, the Holt Lock and Dam station recorded the least amount of rainfall at 1.29 inches, with no missing observations. The figure below illustrates the variability of May's precipitation.

After a relatively cool start, the spring season warmed up, exacerbating the gradual precipitation deficits across many areas of the State. The drier conditions allowed for ample field work and planting. According to the USDA Crop Progress Report for Alabama, as of the end of May, nearly all the corn in the state was planted (~95%), and 70% of hay fields had their first cutting (slightly behind last year), and the peanuts and soybeans are both greater than 60% planted. As we head into June, weekly precipitation is the make it or break it factor for those farmers without irrigation. Corn yields are tightly coupled with June precipitation as the crop enters critical reproductive stages. It's this time of year where flash droughts (just a week or two with no rain and high temperatures) can be especially impactful.

With the conclusion of climatological spring (March, April, May), let's look back at how Alabama fared this spring. Statewide, this spring was the 41st warmest on record, with an average temperature of 64.0°F, which is 1.1°F warmer than normal. Precipitation-wise, this spring was the 60th driest on record, with 14.28 inches of precipitation, which is 0.93 inches drier than normal. It was an active spring in terms of tornado activity, with 25 preliminary tornado reports, which is close to the spring average (1991–2020 reference period) of 24. It should be noted that the number of tornadoes reported in January (29) was higher than the total number of tornadoes reported in the entire 2023 spring season. Since 1950, this has only happened three times: in 1975, 2015, and 2017.

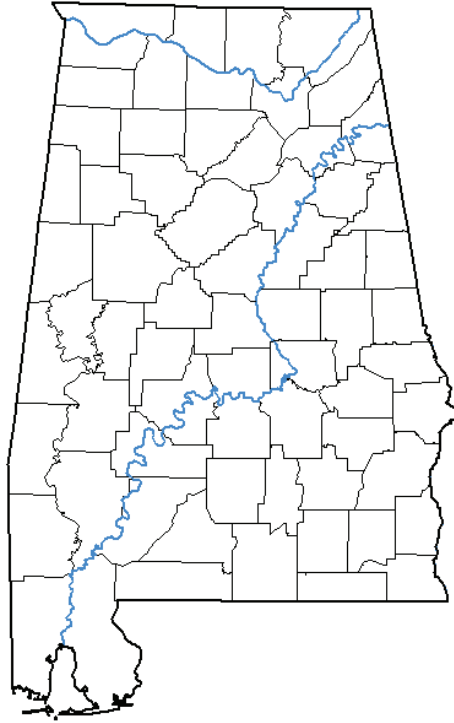
# DROUGHT MONITOR

## U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama







May 30, 2023

(Released Thursday, Jun. 1, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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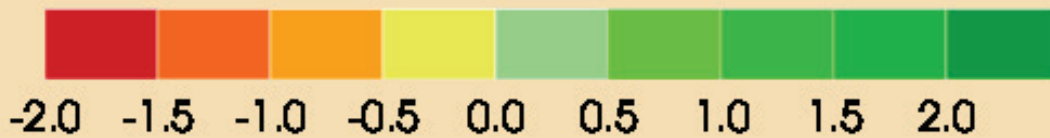
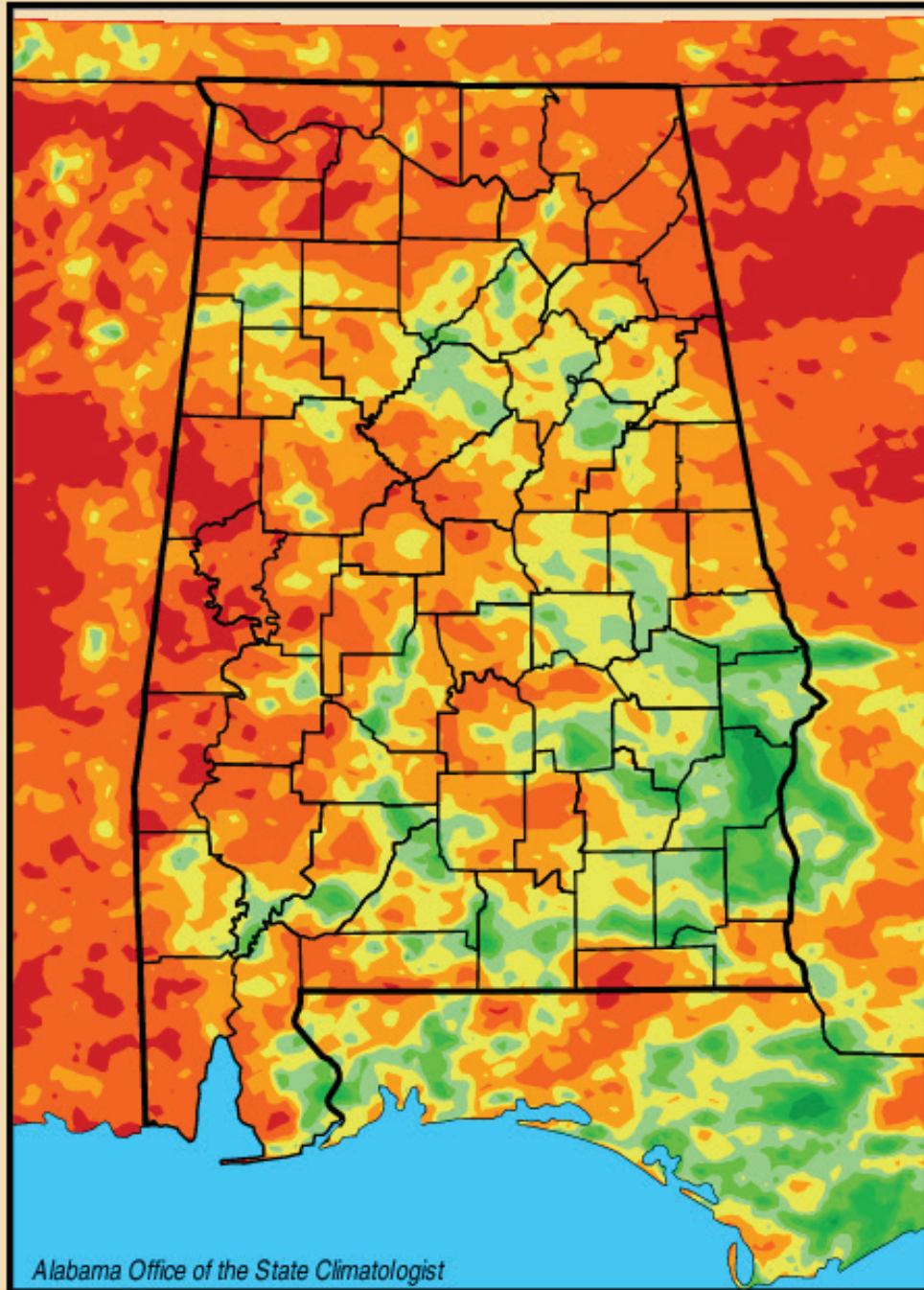
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Although the severe weather season has passed its peak, it is important to keep in mind that severe weather can still happen in Alabama year-round. Lightning is a potential hazard from severe weather. Knowing the risks of lightning is crucial, especially since it occurs more frequently in Alabama during the summer, when more people are working or enjoying outdoor activities. This week (June 18th–24th) is National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. For more information visit: <http://lightningsafetycouncil.org/LSC-LSAW.html>.

Monthly summaries are provided by Dr. Rob Junod, Lee Ellenburg and John Christy.

# LAWN AND GARDEN

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index  
for June 3, 2023



# ALABAMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARIES

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries						
January 2023						
	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. High Temp Record High	Jan. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day
<b>Anniston</b>	50.2 43.5	74 1/3/23 80+ 1/25/50	25 1/15/23 -5 1/21/85	7.61" 5.34"	12.69" 1972 .95" 1986	2.54" 1/3/23 5.07" 1/4/72
<b>Auburn</b>	50.4 48.3	73 1/12/23 84 12/20/24	26 1/28/23 -1 12/13/62	1.63" 5.26"	12.09" 1936 .49" 1927	2.25" 1/3/23 5.23" 1/29/12
<b>Birmingham</b>	50.9 42.6	75 1/2/23 81 1/10/49	25 1/15/23 -6 1/21/85	8.11" 5.45"	9.59" 1996 1.09" 1981	1.69" 1/21/23 4.71" 1/26/96
<b>Brewton</b>	54.3 47.7	79.7 1/2/23 85 1/12/49	26.5 1/15/23 3 1/21/85	7.31" 6.19"	12.55" 1991 1.46" 1981	2.33" 1/29/23 6.45" 1/25/78
<b>Calera</b>	51.7 42.8	75 1/2/23 78 1/29/57	28 1/15/23 -2 1/24/63	9.03" 5.06"	12.59" 1947 .74" 1927	2.30" 1/3/23 4.77" 1/24/20
<b>Clanton</b>	50.9 42.8	73.2 1/1/23 84 1/12/49	26.9 1/27/23 -4 1/21/85	9.50" 5.98"	13.48" 1972 1.15" 1986	2.15" 1/4/23 4.64" 1/19/36
<b>Courtland</b>	48.7 M	73.4 1/1/23 M	24.2 1/24/23 M	3.50" M	M M	1.05" 1/3/23 M
<b>Cullman (St. Bernard)</b>	48.3 M	73.2 1/3/23 M	22.3 1/15/23 M	7.88" M	M M	1.98" 1/3/23 M
<b>Decatur (Pryor Field)</b>	50 42.2	74 1/12/23 79 01/15/1907	25 1/15/23 -5 01/12/18	4.76" 5.04"	12.98" 1949 1.00" 1958	1.28" 1/3/23 4.62" 01/06/50
<b>Dothan</b>	56.2 50.7	81 1/3/23 83 12/11/49	30 1/15/23 10 12/24/63	7.14" 4.27"	16.88" 1936 .34" 1927	1.90" 1/29/23 6.42" 1/18/36
<b>Fairhope</b>	56.5 50.2	80.5 1/2/23 82 1/2/52	27.3 1/15/23 5+ 1/22/85	3.53" 6.11"	16.33" 1998 .87" 1989	1.29" 1/25/23 9.58" 1/25/78
<b>Gadsden</b>	47.5 40.3	69.5 1/3/23 76 1/29/75	22.9 1/27/23 -6+1/21/85	5.20" 5.85"	9.01" 1996 1.48" 1981	1.11" 1/25/23 4.05" 1/16/54
<b>Gainesville Lock</b>	51.7 43.2	76.8 1/1/23 81 1/20/82	27.3 1/15/23 -2+ 1/22/85	7.67" 5.87"	10.80" 1998 1.30" 1981	1.40" 1/8/23 3.40" 1/20/63
<b>Greensboro</b>	52.2 45.7	75.4 1/11/23 83 1/9/37	26.2 1/15/23 -2 1/21/85	8.17" 6.12"	11.69" 1972 1.31" 1986	2.12" 1/3/23 5.58" 1/18/87
<b>Guntersville</b>	M 40	M 75+ 1/17/90	M -11 1/21/85	M 5.08"	9.37" 1982 .93" 1986	M 4.85" 1/5/49
<b>Highland Home</b>	54.3 45.8	76.5 1/3/23 84 1/12/49	28.4 1/15/23 -3+ 1/22/85	6.63" 5.48"	10.49" 1978 .92" 1981	1.48" 1/4/23 4.02" 1/25/78
<b>Huntsville</b>	48.9 39.9	72 1/3/23 77 1/30/2002	25 1/27/23 -11 1/30/66	5.21" 4.99"	10.92" 1982 1.32" 1986	1.13" 1/3/23 4.83" 1/3/82
<b>Mobile</b>	58.1 50.1	82 1/2/23 84 1/11/49	30 1/15/23 3 1/21/85	4.05" 5.75"	16.92" 1998 1.23" 1981	1.32" 1/3/23 6.16" 1/7/98
<b>Montgomery</b>	53.8 46.6	78 1/3/23 83 1/11/49	27 1/28/23 0 1/21/85	5.52" 5.04"	10.16" 1990 1.12" 1986	2.42" 1/3/23 4.16" 1/23/65
<b>Muscle Shoals Airport</b>	49.3 39.9	76 1/1/23 80 1/10/49	25 1/27/23 -11 1/21/85	4.47" 4.97"	11.77" 1974 .60" 1986	1.12" 1/3/23 4.41" 1/31/51
<b>Russellville</b>	48 38.9	73.6 1/1/23 78 1/25/72	20.7 1/15/23 -24+ 1/31/66	5.31" 5.44"	12.48" 1998 .93" 1986	.93" 1/3/23 3.20" 1/19/2001
<b>Scottsboro</b>	46.8 39	74.4 1/3/23 81 1/11/49	23.2 1/15/23 -10 1/26/40	7.25" 6.01"	10.92" 1996 .84" 1986	1.39" 1/3/23 4.12" 1/2/37
<b>Selma</b>	51.5 47	76 1/1/23 83+ 1/30/50	23.4 1/15/23 0 1/21/85	11.60" 5.64"	12.24" 1972 1.07" 1986	2.56" 1/3/23 4.20" 1/6/32
<b>Talladega</b>	50.2 41	72.2 1/3/23 80+ 1/25/50	22.5 1/15/23 -5+ 1/21/85	6.95" 6.12"	15.59" 1972 1.05" 1986	1.12" 1/29/23 4.01" 1/4/72
<b>Thomasville</b>	52.6 47.4	78.7 1/3/23 86 1/20/1913	25.3 1/15/23 -1 1/21/85	7.17" 5.13"	14.37" 1925 .79" 1902	1.43" 1/29/23 5.04" 1/16/25
<b>Troy</b>	55.2 46.7	80 1/2/23 83 1/12/49	26 1/15/23 -1 1/21/85	6.34" 5.11"	9.81" 1978 .98" 1981	3.42" 1/3/23 5.43" 1/19/36
<b>Tuscaloosa</b>	51.6 45.2	76 1/2/23 82 1/10/49	26 1/15/23 -1+ 1/21/85	7.15" 5.72"	10.18" 1979 1.22" 1986	2.54" 1/3/23 4.26" 1/26/96
<b>Valley Head</b>	46.5 37.2	72.5 1/3/23 77+ 1/26/50	21.1 1/15/23 -14+ 1/22/85	7.47" 6.06"	10.42" 1974 1.70" 1981	1.56" 1/12/23 4.00" 1/5/49



# NEW ALABAMA CLIMATE RECORDS

NO MONTHLY WEATHER RECORDS FOR MAY 2023							
<b>Highest Maximum Temperature Daily Record</b>							
STATION	DATE	RECORD	PREV. DATE	PREV. RECORD	NUMBER OF YEARS	DIFFERENCE	
VERNON, AL US	5/15/23	93	5/15/18	92	66	1	
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/15/23	96	5/15/18	93	74	3	
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT, AL US	5/15/23	93	5/15/62	93	93	0	
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	5/15/23	95	5/15/18	94	75	1	
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT, AL US	5/15/23	93	5/15/95	93	75	0	
DEMOPOLIS LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/16/23	94	5/16/95	92	71	2	
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/16/23	94	5/16/01	93	47	1	
JACKSON, AL US	5/16/23	93	5/16/91	93	39	0	
JACKSON, AL US	5/17/23	93	5/17/88	93	39	0	
DAUPHIN ISLAND NUMBER 2, AL US	5/21/23	90	5/21/22	90	47	0	
<b>Highest Minimum Temperature Daily Record</b>							
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/8/23	66	5/8/02	66	46	0	
ATHENS, AL US	5/9/23	68	5/9/95	68	31	0	
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/11/23	68	5/11/19	66	46	2	
HAMILTON, AL US	5/12/23	67	5/12/67	67	61	0	
SCOTTSBORO, AL US	5/12/23	66	5/12/15	66	131	0	
GUNTERSVILLE, AL US	5/14/23	67	5/14/14	67	113	0	
GADSDEN, AL US	5/15/23	68	5/15/10	67	70	1	
GUNTERSVILLE, AL US	5/15/23	69	5/15/10	68	113	1	
HALEYVILLE, AL US	5/15/23	68	5/15/56	67	120	1	
OPELIKA, AL US	5/15/23	67	5/15/67	67	66	0	
ROCK MILLS, AL US	5/15/23	68	5/15/75	65	81	3	
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT, AL US	5/15/23	68	5/15/04	68	82	0	
ATMORE, AL US	5/16/23	70	5/16/08	69	83	1	
BREWTON 3 ENE, AL US	5/16/23	68	5/16/08	67	46	1	
BAY MINETTE, AL US	5/22/23	76	5/22/72	75	108	1	
CLAYTON, AL US	5/22/23	68	5/22/87	68	67	0	
BAY MINETTE, AL US	5/23/23	76	5/23/20	76	108	0	
<b>Lowest Maximum Temperature Daily Record</b>							
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/1/23	64	5/1/05	66	66	-2	
JACKSON, AL US	5/22/23	76	5/22/09	76	39	0	
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/23/23	67	5/23/03	73	46	-6	
GUNTERSVILLE, AL US	5/24/23	71	5/24/03	74	113	-3	
HEFLIN, AL US	5/24/23	66	5/24/67	66	67	0	
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	5/24/23	69	5/24/09	73	68	-4	
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/25/23	79	5/25/93	82	47	-3	
<b>Lowest Minimum Temperature Daily Record</b>							
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/1/23	35	5/1/63	36	66	-1	
OPELIKA, AL US	5/2/23	38	5/2/99	40	66	-2	
DOTHAN REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	5/2/23	49	5/2/15	49	53	0	
ATHENS, AL US	5/3/23	41	5/3/05	41	31	0	
OPELIKA, AL US	5/3/23	39	5/3/61	39	66	0	
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT, AL US	5/3/23	46	5/3/95	46	75	0	
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/4/23	42	5/4/13	42	46	0	
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/28/23	49	5/28/88	50	47	-1	
<b>Highest Precipitation Daily Record</b>							
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/5/23	1.05	5/5/60	0.96	74	0.09	
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/8/23	1.18	5/8/06	0.64	74	0.54	
TUSCALOOSA AIRPORT ASOS, AL US	5/9/23	1.48	5/9/01	1.35	75	0.13	
ATHENS, AL US	5/10/23	0.72	5/10/13	0.72	82	0	
TUSCALOOSA OLIVER DAM, AL US	5/10/23	2.08	5/10/01	1.76	123	0.32	
ADDISON, AL US	5/11/23	1.7	5/11/95	1.08	85	0.62	
CHILDERSBURG WATER PLANT, AL US	5/12/23	2.19	5/12/68	2	66	0.19	
TALLADEGA, AL US	5/16/23	1.6	5/16/08	1.47	135	0.13	
JACKSON, AL US	5/18/23	1.99	5/18/03	1.59	61	0.4	
GADSDEN, AL US	5/19/23	2.5	5/19/69	2.21	70	0.29	
BREWTON 3 ENE, AL US	5/23/23	2.28	5/23/09	0.93	46	1.35	
HURTSBORO, AL US	5/24/23	2.62	5/24/89	2.18	45	0.44	

# CoCoRAHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)							
January 2022							
	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		
Autauga	2.41	2	Houston	5.24	2	Normal January Precipitation*	
Baldwin	2.43	31	Jackson	5.41	5	Abbeville	5.30
Barbour	4.04	1	Jefferson	4.33	20	Alberta	4.84
Bibb	n.a.	0	Lamar	1.20	1	Alex City	5.69
Blount	3.63	4	Lauderdale	5.33	12	Aliceville	5.30
Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	5.47	4	Andalusia	5.17
Butler	3.31	1	Lee	4.34	5	Ashland	5.48
Calhoun	4.40	2	Limestone	6.13	8	Athens	6.06
Chambers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0	Bay Minette	5.43
Cherokee	n.a.	0	Macon	2.32	1	Bessemer	5.34
Chilton	5.46	1	Madison	6.20	23	Billingsly	4.98
Choctaw	3.11	1	Marengo	n.a.	0	Centreville WSMO	5.63
Clarke	5.28	3	Marion	4.99	1	Chatom	5.45
Clay	5.13	1	Marshall	5.25	11	Claiborne L&D	5.49
Cleburne	n.a.	0	Mobile	2.67	21	Clayton	4.91
Coffee	n.a.	0	Monroe	3.93	3	Dauphin Isl.	5.86
Colbert	6.34	6	Montgomery	5.61	4	Elba	5.08
Conecuh	n.a.	0	Morgan	5.54	6	Eufaula WR	5.20
Coosa	6.13	1	Perry	n.a.	0	Evergreen	5.55
Covington	3.29	1	Pickens	1.15	1	Fayette	5.75
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Pike	n.a.	0	Geneva 2	6.43
Cullman	3.56	4	Randolph	3.22	1	Greenville	4.98
Dale	n.a.	0	Russell	2.40	2	Haleyville	5.79
Dallas	4.90	1	St. Clair	4.12	6	Hamilton 3S	5.31
DeKalb	5.33	7	Shelby	4.44	15	Heflin	5.31
Elmore	5.92	4	Sumter	n.a.	0	Hurtsboro	4.89
Escambia	3.58	1	Talladega	4.11	4	Jasper	5.71
Etowah	3.36	3	Tallapoosa	4.11	1	Lafayette	5.19
Fayette	n.a.	0	Tuscaloosa	4.74	5	Livingston	4.77
Franklin	n.a.	0	Walker	5.17	1	Melvin	5.25
Geneva	n.a.	0	Washington	4.79	1	Milstead	4.85
Greene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	6.83	2	Moulton	5.03
Hale	n.a.	0	Winston	4.75	2	Oneonta	5.39
Henry	n.a.	0				Perryville	5.00
						Plantersville	5.26
						Rock Mills	5.39
						Rockford	5.54
						Sylacauga	5.14
						Union Springs	4.77
						Uniontown	4.99
						Vernon	5.95
						Warrior L&D	5.34
						Wetumpka	4.87



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