

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.**

**MONTGOMERY(Barry Robinson):**

Crops and pastures got some much needed precipitation this past week, but it was spotty with some areas receiving a little and others too much (hail and associated erosion).

**PULASKI (MJ Fisher):**

It has been an interesting week in Pulaski County. Temperatures have had nearly a 50 degree range from 32 to 81. Additionally, much of the County received rainfall ranging from 1 to 3 inches, through a series of mildly severe thunderstorms. (Some of these were small and isolated.) Some parts of the County, mostly below Claytor Lake, received some small-sized hail during one of the storms. Farmers continue to calve out cows and are expressing concern over the high price of fertilizer. Many our looking for alternative fertilizer sources.

**WEST MORLAND (Sam Johnson):**

Farmers are doing some tillage, subsoiling to prepare fields for planting. Some herbicides and fertilizers are going out for corn planting. A few small grain fields are receiving last N applications. Vegetable folks are busy in greenhouses with transplant work and preparing fields for planting.

**WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey):**

Much needed rain fell in this area. Pastures responded and growth is evident. Many producers were fertilizing and spreading manure prior to the rainfall. The rainfall for this area to date is now at the thirty year average. Many producers are marketing animals. Some producers were getting extremely low on hay supply. Will continue to monitor.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):**

We are experiencing a very seasonal spring this year. Temperatures and soil moisture conditions have been very favorable to agronomic field preparation and planting vegetables. Wheat is growing rapidly now. Early corn planting will begin next week. Farmers are monitoring rising fertilizer costs and tight corn and soybean seed supplies.

**SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):**

Corn planting underway with good working conditions. Small grain growing well. Soil moisture is relatively low.



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**WEATHER  
&  
CROPS**



**Week of: March 25-April 1, 2007**

**Number: 4**

**Released: April 2, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2007**

Portions of Virginia experienced heavy rainfall earlier this past week. In some parts of Virginia, soil moisture was relatively short. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Alfalfa growers were spraying for alfalfa weevils and scouting wheat and barley for pests. In some counties, farmers have begun to plant corn. Tobacco farmers have started disking and bedding rows in the fields. Vegetable growers were preparing for planting. Other farm activities included applying fertilizer, and lime applications, repairing equipment, attending meetings and marketing animals.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 1, 2007	2	22	70	



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**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2007**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	78	27	53	5	0	-0.62	0
Warrenton	80	36	55	8	0	-0.7	0
Winchester 7 SE	80	24	53	7	0	-0.7	0
Dale Enterprises	78	26	53	6	0.73	0.18	1
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	84	32	59	9	0.92	0.22	3
Roanoke AP	83	35	62	12	1.01	0.24	2
Waynesboro	79	30	55	10	0.7	0.07	1
Staunton AG	79	30	57	11	0.52	-0.11	2
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	84	28	58	8	0.02	-0.75	1
Piedmont Res ST	81	35	57	8	0.05	-0.7	1
Bremo Bluff	86	30	60	11	0.2	-0.57	3
Richmond AP	86	37	60	9	0.33	-0.42	2
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	78	38	55	4	0.06	-0.75	1
Wallops Island	82	33	54	5	0.04	-0.72	1
Williamsburg	85	35	59	8	0.21	-0.62	2
Keysville	85	32	58	8	0.9	0.1	1
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	81	31	57	12	1.52	0.68	3
Wytheville	80	33	57	12	0.33	-0.3	2
Saltville	82	37	60	12	0.71	-0.06	2
Richlands	82	39	60	18	0.16	-0.68	1
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	87	33	60	11	0.51	-0.47	3
Danville AG	87	35	60	9	1.93	1.11	3
Chatham	85	29	58	9	1.03	0.17	3
Martinsville	85	28	59	10	0.76	-0.11	4
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	86	38	58	7	0	-0.77	0
Oceana	87	36	59	7	0	-0.74	0
Emporia	87	34	59	9	0.39	-0.41	2
Newport News	87	32	59	7	0.03	-0.74	1

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

**WEATHER & CROPS**

**Week Of March 25 – April 1, 2007**

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	2	9	43	43	3
Livestock	0	6	27	55	12
Other Hay	1	4	46	48	1
Alfalfa Hay	0	2	47	50	1
Winter Wheat	1	6	27	54	12
Barley	0	3	19	74	4
All Apples	0	3	57	40	0
Peaches	1	1	25	72	1
Grapes	0	0	23	77	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Tobacco Seeded	97	NA	NA	NA
Potatoes, Summer	42	NA	NA	NA

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**AMELIA COUNTY (Robyn D. Whittington):**

Many producers have "corn planting fever." So far, two in the county have begun planting. Others are spending their days getting planters ready and burning down fields.

**BRUNSWICK(Cynthia L. Gregg):**

The frost late last week hurt some of the plants that were in bloom. The warmer weather has had producers in the field tilling land, fumigating and bedding tobacco fields, still putting out lime and fertilizer. The grass is beginning to come along nicely in most fields. Rain over the weekend, helped clear the air and green things up even more.

**CAMPBELL ( Scott Reiter):**

A few rain showers have helped hay and pasture growth over the last 2 weeks. Alfalfa growers are spraying for alfalfa weevils as the insects reached economic thresholds this week. Tobacco growers have started fieldwork with disking and bedding rows.

**CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):**

-Many farmers are applying herbicides to cover crops in preparation for corn planting. Some fields are being tilled and ripped.

-Soil moisture is becoming an issue. We have not had a good sustained rainfall for about three weeks. Rainfall is definitely

(Caroline County continued) below average for the past two months. We need some good rain to complement spring planting and final small grain fertilization.

--Small grain crops are hanging in there, but would definitely benefit from some much needed moisture.

**ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):**

Farmers finished potato planting on time if not a bit early. Tomato growers are in good shape for laying plastic. Should be on time planting if weather conditions hold up. Farmers are scouting wheat and barley crops for plant pests. Farmers are attending meetings and applying fertilizer, chemicals and lime.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):**

Corn planting has begun. This area received no rain other than a sprinkle during the week and weekend. Still good moisture for planting corn though. Field prep continues with fertilizer and herbicide applications for corn. Small grain scouting continues and some last shots of N being applied. Fertilizer prices are of great concern as N prices move upwards into the mid .40's per #. Price of DAP has also made sizeable increases in price. Some producers now considering moving some fields away from corn and back to beans.

Field prep, equipment repairs continue. Corn planting should be in full swing by late next week.