

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

A few corn fields planted during the week and some other fields were sprayed or tilled in preparation for planting. Colder temperatures have held up vegetable transplanting. There are lots of plants in greenhouses ready to go when things warm up. Not sure of the damage to crops at this point from the cold temperatures over the weekend. Most of the fruit crops, strawberry, peach, apple, etc were in bloom stage. Will check on these during the week to see what happened.

GRAYSON COUNTY (Kevin Spurlin):

Cherry and peach trees were in blossom during this past week's extremely cold weather. High winds prevented frost build-up. We will monitor the extent of damage to these fruits due to the low temperatures.

LEE COUNTY (Harold Jerrell):

Most of the week saw temperatures in the 20's with a couple of days at 19 degrees. Grass, hay, and some forest trees have been damaged.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

Very little precipitation, unusually cold temperatures and windy conditions have created problems for all crops this week. Extent of damage to fruit crops may not be fully known for a couple of weeks. Most early vegetable crops will have some damage but should not require complete replanting.

PULASKI COUNTY (Mike Fisher):

The sudden drop in temperatures at the end of the week put concern into the minds of local producers. Many had been getting ready for some spring work but with temperatures returning to the 20's & 30's, soil temperatures are not going to allow for that. The area did get some moisture, in the form of snow/ice. Some producers are continuing their spring calving; sheep producers are beginning to think about shearing and questioning what to expect in this year's wool market. Fertilizer prices & high fuel costs remain a topic of discussion and great concern among area farmers.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

Spring weather yielded to winter this weekend, with temperatures in the teens and a few inches of snow falling. Fruit tree blossoms were frozen, and damage to the strawberry crop has not been established due to irrigation still being used. It is anticipated that, due to the extremely cold weather, the strawberry crop will be drastically reduced.



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PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Jamie Stowe):

Tobacco farmers are busy tending their plants in the greenhouses and planning for planting. Pasture and hay land are making a slow recovery from previously dry conditions and are beginning to show promising growth. Temperatures below freezing the past three nights and predicted for 2-3 more are a concern for home gardeners and the few orchard owners that are in the county, especially since warmer than normal temperatures the past few weeks has encouraged growth. Some plants and fruit trees are already showing damage.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

This week has been a week of ups and downs. Early week heat had folks out working ground including tobacco land. Greenhouses with tobacco plants have been clipped. Cooler weather has folks concerned about fruit crops and other blooming plants this weekend. Many trees and shrubs are blooming including redbuds, dogwood, Bradford pears, and some tree fruit. Some folks are still trying to finish up liming and fertilizing of crop fields and some hayfields and pasture.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):

Corn planting began in low gear this week with most farmers opting to wait another week to begin in earnest. Cold temperatures moved into area this weekend prompting strawberry growers to use frost protection. Farmers are finishing off-season field work such as filling in ruts, land leveling and ditch digging and spreading spoil. Other jobs include fertilizer and lime applications and strip tillage.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Snow on Saturday morning and freezing weather at night have growers with corn already up, concerned. Field work is continuing with land being bedded for cotton and peanut planting. Small grain is growing well.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

Below normal rainfall and colder temperatures are slowing the growth of pastures, grass hay fields and winter grains. Winter feed supplies are rapidly diminishing as cattle remain on stored feeds due to slow pasture growth. Growth and use of winter grains for grazing has been slow due to the lack of moisture and warm night temperatures to enhance growth. Calves held over from last fall are rapidly finding their way to various marketing venues. Some producers are 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.



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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: April 2-April 8, 2007

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2007

Portions of Virginia experienced below normal rainfall and cooler temperatures this past week. In some parts of Virginia soil moisture was relatively short. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. Wheat looked good but could use some rain to take nitrogen applications to roots. Small grains were doing well. Tobacco and vegetable farmers were tending to plants in the greenhouse and planning for planting. Other farm activities included applying fertilizer and lime and repairing equipment.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 8, 2007	1	29	66	4
April 1, 2007	2	22	70	6

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AWIS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2007

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	82	26	47	-5	0.23	-0.36	1
Warrenton	82	26	49	-2	0.10	-0.60	3
Winchester 7 SE	83	32	49	2	0.28	-0.42	2
Dale Enterprises	78	23	46	-4	0.35	-0.21	4
WESTERN							
Glasgow	83	30	50	-3	0.04	-0.62	1
Roanoke AP	82	28	52	-2	0.14	-0.58	1
Waynesboro	80	24	50	2	0.08	-0.55	1
Staunton AG	79	21	47	-2	0.14	-0.49	2
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	82	28	50	-4	0.47	-0.25	2
Piedmont Res ST	83	26	50	-2	0.40	-0.30	3
Bremo Bluff	87	28	54	3	0.22	-0.48	1
Richmond AP	84	29	55	2	0.16	-0.54	1
EASTERN							
Eastville	82	30	52	-2	0.46	-0.22	4
Wallops Island	80	30	49	-4	0.16	-0.46	3
Williamsburg	83	26	51	-4	0.36	-0.36	1
Keysville	84	26	53	0	0.20	-0.55	2
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	77	21	45	-3	0.18	-0.66	3
Wytheville	77	20	45	-3	0.44	-0.21	3
Saltville	80	22	47	-4	0.74	-0.05	2
Richlands	78	20	45	2	1.10	0.28	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	83	20	51	-1	0.15	-0.83	1
Danville AG	86	28	54	0	0.08	-0.69	1
Chatham	83	25	52	1	0.14	-0.67	1
Martinsville	82	27	51	0	0.22	-0.62	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	82	33	55	2	0.65	-0.06	3
Oceana	85	31	55	2	0.59	-0.07	4
Emporia	84	28	54	2	0.18	-0.53	2
Newport News	84	27	54	0	0.39	-0.32	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of April 2 – April 8, 2007

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	12	45	38	4
Livestock	0	6	28	56	10
Other Hay	2	6	47	42	3
Alfalfa Hay	1	3	42	51	3
Winter Wheat	2	6	28	55	9
Barley	1	5	25	64	5
All Apples	17	16	67	0	0
Peaches	44	27	22	6	1
Grapes	0	0	79	21	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	24	NA	14	10
Potatoes, Summer	99	42	NA	NA
Tobacco, Greenhouse Seeded	99	97	98	99
Tobacco, Plantbeds Seeded	81	NA	95	98

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

BOTETOURT COUNTY (Andy Allen):

Several mornings with temperatures in the lower 20's damaged apple and peach tree buds following a couple of warm weeks.

year for farming. Farmers excited and can hardly wait to get started planting.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Cold weather and snow showers limited field work and slowed spring grass growth. Lambing and calving continue. Some stockers are being processed and sent to summer pasture.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

Farmers finished applying the second spring application of nitrogen to wheat and planted corn. The area received from 1-4 inches of snow on Friday night and night time temperatures in the mid to upper 20's followed. There is concern about damage to the small grain crops, especially barley, and growers will be assessing damage later this week.

AMHERST COUNTY (William W. Seay):

Cold temperatures and lack of moisture has slowed forage growth. Livestock producers are still supplementing pasture growth with hay. Peach bloom has finished. Waiting until after cold wave is past to determine extent of freeze damage.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

We need rain. Showers during the week went north and the area barely got a sprinkle. Corn planting continues. No-till planting still has adequate moisture. Cool temperatures at weeks end will slow corn planting slightly. Some producers chose to wait until this "cold snap" passes before they start planting. Land prep and scouting of small grains continues. Wheat looks good, but could benefit from showers to take nitrogen applications to roots. Pastures and hay fields and tilled corn fields would benefit tremendously from moisture. Commodity prices have bounced back somewhat after the planting intentions report came out last week.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Corn planting started on the last couple days of March and is well under way. Small grains are receiving their last applications of fertilizer and some are being treated with fungicides and growth regulators. Soil moisture conditions have not improved much. We have received some scattered light rainfall, but a widespread soaking rain is much needed. In addition to planting corn farmers are preparing for soybean planting season.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Some rain is needed. If it could rain this weekend it would really help with corn planting and fieldwork. Tomato planting should start today, Monday. Farmers are picking up supplies, applying lime, fertilizer, herbicides and working on planting equipment. Looks like a good

RICHMOND COUNTY (Kelly J. Liddington):

The county had 4" of snow over the weekend, too early to tell the degree of damage to crops from the cold temps.