

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**CENTRAL**

**Amelia (Robyn D. Whittington)**

Producers are all thankful for last weeks' rains. Now, the race is on to start planting corn. Some producers are still feeding hay in order to give grass pastures a little more time to grow out from the winter. Small grains are a beautiful black-green... making use of every ounce of top-dressed nitrogen. Barley is starting to head out.

**Caroline (McGann Saphir)**

Grain farmers are top-dressing wheat and barley with fertilizer and applying fungicides to control powdery mildew in the same application. -Some small grain fields are also being treated for aphids. Corn producers are killing cover crops and no-tilling corn into those covers (mostly rye and barley). Corn planting is well under way despite cool weather.

**EASTERN**

**Accomack (Jim Belote)**

(Some producers were) spraying for no-till corn weed control and some advance spraying for full season weed control in soybeans for burn down. Fertilizer is being applied according to soil tests and

nutrient management plans. Field work of all types of tillage is being done. Farmers are scouting for insect pests in wheat crop. Potato crop has been planted and looks good. Tomato planting should really pick up steam this week.

**Northumberland (Matt Lewis)**

It has been a wet week. Corn planting has been delayed by 5 to 7 days, and growers have not been able to treat wheat diseases with fungicides due to the wet weather. An outbreak of powdery mildew in some wheat varieties necessitates fungicide applications, but there should still be some time to make timely treatments before grain yields are significantly impacted.

**Westmoreland (Sam Johnson)**

As fields dried out from weekend rains, corn planting speeded up. Mild temperatures continue to spur small grain growth and most of the crop looks very good. Farmers are checking small grains for insect or disease, but nothing of note yet. Vegetable planting and transplanting is getting in gear. Pastures and hayfields are greening up.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Phone (804) 771-2493  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Of: April 7 – 13, 2008**

**Number: 5**

**Released: April 14, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 2008**

It was a cool week throughout Virginia. The low temperatures hindered small grain progress and delayed corn planting in parts of the State. Days suitable for field work were 4.9. Scattered showers contributed to improved hay and pasture crop conditions. In some parts of the State, rain showers hampered spraying fungicides and herbicides on small grains. Other farm activities this week included feeding hay to livestock, preparing for vegetable planting and transplanting, and monitoring small grains for aphid pressure.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 6, 2008	4	14	67	15
April 13, 2008	0	14	76	10



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	20	48	25	4
Livestock	1	6	36	49	8
Hay, Other	6	10	51	32	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	8	35	53	4
Winter Wheat	1	3	21	59	16
Barley	0	1	22	73	4
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	9	55	36
Tobacco, Plantbeds	10	9	51	30	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	5	20	75	0
Apples, All	0	1	29	70	0
Peaches	2	8	45	27	18
Grapes	0	2	24	47	27
Oats	2	11	31	52	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	12	5	26	19
Winter Wheat Headed	4	1	NA	1
Tobacco Plantbeds Seeded	95	93	91	98
Potatoes, Summer	99	90	100	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 13, 2008													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 5	Mar. 1 to Apr. 5 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	65	47	81	43	56	2	239	225	0.41	5.01	-0.15	8.23	-3.52
Norfolk	62	51	82	46	56	0	305	247	0.28	4.26	-1.20	9.03	-3.68
Richmond	67	50	83	44	58	3	322	270	0.62	5.25	-0.10	9.62	-2.25
Roanoke	67	49	83	45	58	3	261	NA	0.31	4.06	-1.14	6.88	-4.58
Wash/Dulles	65	48	82	43	57	6	203	NA	0.57	3.90	-0.91	7.86	-2.76

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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**WESTERN**

**Rockbridge (Jon Repair)**

Forages are beginning to grow as temperatures warm up. (Producers are) hoping for additional rain this week to keep things moist. Some field work is beginning, but things are off to a slow start. Feed supplies continue to be short. If favorable weather persists, this (situation) should begin to take care of itself within a week.

**NORTHERN**

**Clarke (Jake Grove)**

Cooler weather has held back some small grain and pasture growth.

**Culpeper (Carl Stafford)**

Very good spring growth on small grains, hay and pasture stands where fertility is adequate. Otherwise, poor growth is showing up already due to low fertility and dry weather. Corn planting started this week by early birds, while others wait as weather turns cooler. The cattle are actively coming to market in response to poor feed supply.

**Rockingham (Amber D. Vallotton)**

Rockingham County received some slow steady rainfall during this recording time. Assuming rainfall continues weekly, the soil moisture should help with germination as corn planting time quickly approaches. In no-till situations with heavy residue cover, the extra moisture may encourage increased slug pressure on new seedlings, so producers should survey fields as new seedlings emerge.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**Brunswick (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

The past week had some rain and folks did get some field work accomplished. It was cooler over the weekend with some wind. There has been aphid activity in some small grains. Grass is beginning to show some growth but still has a long way to go. Hay is in short supply in the area. Some fields are being sprayed to get ready for no-till planting in the area as well.

**Prince George (Scott Reiter)**

Many producers are applying fungicides to wheat this week. Powdery mildew has been found in some fields but not every field scouted. Fungicides are in short supply from area distributors. Very little corn has been planted - producers are waiting for temperatures to moderate before putting too much seed in the ground.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**Montgomery (Barry Robinson)**

Wheat and barley are progressing well. Hayfields and pastures are in fairly good shape. All crops need significant rain after last week's warm, windy and dry days.

**Smyth (Walter Robinson)**

Soil moisture is fine, and most permanent springs are running. Wet weather springs and wells that have gone dry are not replenished at this point; not that wet weather springs contribute too much. (However), it is an indication of ground water reserves.