

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

CENTRAL

Appomattox (Bruce Jones)

Spring tillage continues for conventional corn and conventional soybean fields. Burndown chemicals are being applied to no-till fields and fertilizer applications continue. Farmers getting hay equipment ready and will start cutting rye as soon as weather permits.

EASTERN

Accomack (Jim Belote)

Corn planting at full speed. Farmers are scouting wheat for disease and insects. Tomato planting is in progress. Was getting dry but suppose to rain today. If it does, rains will be very timely. Farmers are applying fertilizer for soybeans and burndown chemical for corn and soybeans. Potato planting has finished up on time, if not a little bit early.

Middlesex (David Moore)

Wheat looks very good and is beginning to head out. Barley has headed and has begun flowering. Producers are scouting for disease and insects in wheat and making fungicide and insecticide applications. Corn land prep continues. Lime spreading and fertilizer applications continue and corn planting is about to get into full swing. Cool night time temperatures have wheat producers anxious about possible damage to crop. Frost hit most areas on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Most wheat had not quite headed out at that time. Ground moisture currently is good. Vegetable fields are being prepared for planting. Sweet corn planting has begun.

Westmoreland (Sam Johnson)

After a dry week and good planting conditions, it rained about an inch on Sunday and most fields will be too wet for field work for several days. Corn planting made good progress during the week. Barley headed and wheat is close behind and both crops look good. Not a lot of insect problems reported. Vegetable planting continued. Some early strawberries were harvested



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: April 14 – 20, 2008

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 20, 2008

The week started off dry, followed by heavy rains throughout the weekend. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. Good progress was made on corn planted. Due to the scarcity of seed, some growers were waiting for warmer temperatures before planting their crops. However, other growers were planting at full speed. Hay, winter wheat, and barley were in good condition due to timely showers. Other farming activities this week included applying fertilizers to wheat and barley, preparing fields with non-selective herbicides, planting vegetables, and harvesting some early strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 6, 2008	4	14	67	15
April 13, 2008	0	14	76	10
April 20, 2008	1	17	67	15



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	3	15	44	35	3
Livestock	1	5	33	54	7
Hay, Other	1	13	43	41	2
Hay, Alfalfa	0	7	27	58	8
Winter Wheat	1	2	21	60	16
Barley	0	1	20	71	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	1	63	36
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	4	46	40	10
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	30	60	10
Apples, All	0	1	39	60	0
Peaches	0	10	55	35	0
Grapes	0	3	30	50	17
Oats	0	8	28	62	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	29	12	29	29
Winter Wheat Headed	12	4	0	2

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING April 20, 2008													
City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation ending Apr. 19				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 19	Mar. 1 to Apr. 19 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	36	83	29	52	-4	302	302	0.67	5.68	-0.23	8.90	-3.63
Norfolk	66	44	81	39	55	-3	365	325	0.07	4.33	-1.85	9.10	-4.28
Richmond	71	41	87	32	56	-1	399	356	0.00	5.25	-0.78	9.62	-2.87
Roanoke	67	40	84	31	53	-4	323	NA	0.63	4.69	-1.32	7.51	-4.80
Wash/Dulles	68	39	83	31	54	0	269	NA	0.00	3.90	-1.59	7.86	-3.53

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>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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WESTERN

Augusta (Brain Jones)

Cool and moist conditions early in the week gave way to warm dry conditions allowing field work to progress rapidly the 2nd half of the week. Small grain harvest for forage progressed rapidly this week.

Rockbridge (Jon Repair)

Rains over the weekend have certainly brought encouragement. There were three nights of frost at the beginning of the week which slowed down forage growth in hay fields and pastures. Corn planting has begun. Winter grain growth has been below normal for this time of year due to dry weather and above normal temperatures. Cattle prices continue to fall as feed prices rise, not a very conducive match as other inputs continue to rise also. Some livestock are still being fed stored forages which continues to put a strain on costs.

NORTHERN

Culpeper(Carl Stafford)

The rain over the weekend and on Monday improved surface soil conditions, at least temporarily.

SOUTHEASTERN

Sussex (Kelvin Wells)

Farmers are preparing to plant cotton and fumigating peanut land. Next week, growers will start planting peanuts. Good rains over the weekend will provide more soil moisture, especially since it was short from last year.

Suffolk City (Rex Cotton)

We are really catching up on rainfall. Farmers are hoping that warmer temperatures and sunny days will return so they can resume planting.

Virginia Beach (Cal Schiemann)

Strawberry crop is 1 week ahead of normal. Growers that used winter row covers have been harvesting early varieties for two weeks. Harvest of main crop will start next week.

SOUTHWESTERN

Grayson (Kevin Spurlin)

Cover crops are being treated in preparation for corn planting. Tobacco fields are being plowed. Farmers welcomed weekend rains.

Montgomery (Barry Robinson)

Rainfall received late in the week benefited all crops (winter grains and hay/pastures).