

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

CENTRAL

Caroline (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are applying the last amounts of fertilizer to small grain crops and scouting for insects and diseases. Corn producers were trying to get into very wet fields to finish planting this year's crop. Farmers have planted a little over half the crop and much of that has emerged. Soil moisture is excellent after rains Sunday through Tuesday. Hay and pasture are looking much improved. Vegetable producers are laying plastic and readying transplants, and early strawberries are being picked and marketed.

land for no-till soybeans. Not much tillage except for vegetables. Almost all corn and soybeans will be no-till this year. Farmers are taking delivery on seed and checking with bankers on credit line increases due to higher and unforeseen increases in input cost.

New Kent (Paul Davis)

Producers were waiting for the soil to dry out to finish planting corn. Producers were also getting soybean seed delivered and getting soybean land sprayed with herbicides. They were hunting turkeys and cleaning out drainage ditches.

EASTERN

Accomack (Jim Belote)

Small grain starting to head. Tomato planting is in full swing. Some early planted tomatoes were being staked. Farmers continued laying plastic for later planted tomatoes. There has been active scouting for insects, disease and weeds in wheat, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables. Actively spraying

Westmoreland (Sam Johnson)

Warm and sunny most of week and corn plantings continued after things dried out from rain the previous weekend. Other field preparations were done for soybeans and vegetables. Strawberry and asparagus harvest continued. Small grains were monitored for insect and disease problems.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: April 21 – 27, 2008

Number: 7

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 27, 2008

There were heavy rain showers throughout most of the Commonwealth this week. Days suitable for field work were 3.7. Warm temperatures and adequate moisture improved conditions of pasture and hay. Good progress was made on corn plantings during the start of the week. However, later in the week planting was delayed in some areas due to the rain. Other farming activities this week included scouting for insects and disease, laying plastic and readying transplants, harvesting strawberries, mending fence, shearing sheep, and spraying in preparation for soybean planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 27, 2008	0	5	70	25
April 20, 2008	1	17	67	15
April 13, 2008	0	14	76	10
April 6, 2008	4	14	67	15



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	7	42	45	5
Livestock	0	5	28	58	9
Hay, Other	2	11	33	47	7
Hay, Alfalfa	1	6	25	51	17
Winter Wheat	1	2	20	60	17
Barley	0	1	13	81	5
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	1	73	26
Tobacco, Plantbeds	10	10	40	35	5
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	35	50	15
Apples, All	0	0	39	53	8
Peaches	1	7	55	25	12
Grapes	0	1	26	60	13
Oats	1	7	18	72	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	47	29	51	45
Corn Emerged	16	0	15	16
Winter Wheat Headed	38	12	0	NA
Cotton Planted	9	0	16	20
Soybeans Planted	1	0	2	1

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF April 20 – 26, 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. 26	Mar. 1 to Apr. 26 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	53	83	48	63	5	396	391	1.46	7.41	0.55	10.63	-2.82
Norfolk	71	56	84	52	64	4	463	417	3.26	7.86	0.78	12.63	-1.72
Richmond	75	56	84	52	66	6	512	453	1.99	10.78	3.92	15.15	-1.75
Roanoke	74	54	83	52	64	5	421	NA	1.60	6.60	-0.42	9.42	-3.84
Wash/Dulles	73	53	83	51	63	7	368	NA	0.88	8.12	1.73	12.08	-0.12

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

Highland (Rodney Leech)

Showers and warmer nights spurred on grass growth. Chief activities include fertilizing hay meadows and pastures, working and turning out stock to summer grazing areas, fence repairs and sheep shearing.

NORTHERN

Clarke (Jake Grove)

Heavy rains this week are helping recharge soil moisture. Warmer weather with adequate moisture is bringing out pasture growth that had been delayed due to lower than normal temperatures.

Culpeper (Carl Stafford)

Less than half of an inch of rain fell starting last night and this morning with good prospects for it to continue during the day. Perennial forages have responded to last week's rain that is having a lasting impact on growth and surface moisture. Those that applied fertilizer are reaping its rewards when combined with adequate moisture that in the short run will push the cool season grass growth curve higher. Early progress on row crops is slowed by rain but crop benefits outweigh planting delays.

Fauquier (Tim Mize)

Welcomed rainfall continued to fall across the county. The rains have delayed some fieldwork including fertilizing and seeding, although no one is complaining. Orchards and vineyards have benefited from the mild weather. Cattle have regained condition from the winter and somewhat limited feed supplies.

SOUTHEASTERN

Brunswick (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The past warm, dry weather has prompted aphid populations in small grains. The grass is coming along slowly. The soil is soaking up the water of the past few days. Still more is needed. Tobacco fields are being prepared for planting, as are other crops fields. Producers are getting haying equipment ready for May cuttings.

Surry (Glenn Slade)

Field work is back in progress after rains the first of last week (4/20-23). Some places got over 3 inches total.

Chesapeake City (Watson Lawrence)

We received 3-inches of rain in most parts this week. Corn planting came to a complete halt, far behind our normal completion by this time. Farmers are not planting as much corn as anticipated with strong soybean prices. Wheat crop looks excellent with very few problems reported this spring. This rain should carry crop to full grain fill. Several strawberry farms are opening for business this weekend. Cold temperatures last week appear not to have damaged wheat or the few acres of corn seedlings that emerged.

Virginia Beach (Cal Schiemann)

3 - 4 inches of rain delayed corn planting and other field work for most of the week. Ponds, streams, ditches and swamps are full of water. All strawberry farms opened over the weekend for the public to pick berries.

SOUTHWESTERN

Carroll (Wythe Morris)

Scattered rain during the past week has helped dry conditions, especially since overcast and no wind accompanied the rain. The cold spell of two weeks ago may have missed the peaches, but still a little early to tell.

Montgomery (Barry Robinson)

Recent rains have been beneficial to all crops, but some heavy downpours have caused erosion where vegetation became thin and died over the winter, most likely a result of last year's drought.

Scott (Scott Jerrell)

Steady rains have helped pasture growth considerably. Strawberry harvest will begin this week, with good berry size and flavor. Alfalfa weevil has been found, and has done considerable damage on alfalfa that was not cut last fall.