

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Heavy rains helped crops quite a bit and brought the water table up. The moisture was badly needed, which will set the stage for ideal planting conditions for full season soybeans. The corn crop is ahead of schedule. Wheat heads are starting to fill out. The tomato crop is in good shape. Potential exists for an excellent potato crop. Intensive scouting is being done in potatoes, tomatoes and wheat.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Wheat and barley look good. Some fungicide applications are still going out on some late flare-ups of disease. Land prep continues for soybean planting and corn planting on low-ground acres. No real problems with corn. Occasional cutworms, crows, slugs, etc., but nothing major at this time. Producers are making plans for bean planting and picking up seed. Most of week was near perfect weather for haymaking and many small fields have been cut and harvested. Chances of showers over the weekend will delay soybean planting and hay making. Vegetable planting continues. Some tomatoes, cantaloupes, and peppers have been set out and are looking good so far.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Soil moisture was replenished in some fields Sunday with approximately 3.5 inches of rain, while others were left with lakes. Field work stopped for several days because of the rains and there will probably be damage done to the strawberry crop. Barley and wheat fields are lodged from the wind and the rain. A few late corn fields were planted earlier in the week and a few soybeans were put in the ground. Early vegetable and strawberry harvest continued earlier in the week.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Steady rains and high winds were experienced this weekend. Crop and animal conditions have not changed. Pastures are looking thin, and not rebounding as quickly as expected.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The East Central area of the county is still cleaning up from last week's tornado. Fences are being repaired along with buildings, homes, etc. Producers in the county are cutting small grains for hay as well as some grass hay this past week. Barley haylage is also being made this week. Producers are putting tobacco in the ground. 4-H members and their families are getting ready for the livestock show next week as well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rains late in the week have halted progress on corn planting, hay making, and land preparation for peanuts. It will be another 5-7 days before field operations can resume. Some corn was replanted Tuesday and Wednesday but many fields have not dried enough to drive through the affected areas.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers resumed planting corn this week. Wheat continues to look promising.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: May 5 – 11, 2008

Number: 9

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 11, 2008

The south eastern part of the state is still cleaning up from last week's tornado. Rains late in the week have halted progress on planting crops and making hay. Days suitable for field work were 4.5. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Small grain crops look good with some lodging, due to heavy rains. Other farm activities include sheep shearing, fence building and repairs and liming and fertilizing meadows.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 11, 2008	1	9	62	28
May 4, 2008	1	10	74	15
April 27, 2008	0	5	70	25
April 20, 2008	1	17	67	15
April 13, 2008	0	14	76	10



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	6	36	50	6
Livestock	1	4	28	59	8
Hay, Other	2	9	25	59	5
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	32	56	11
Winter Wheat	1	3	19	58	19
Barley	0	1	19	73	7
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	4	71	25
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	50	45	5
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	30	50	20
Apples, All	0	0	33	60	7
Peaches	1	16	45	36	2
Grapes	0	1	13	85	1
Oats	2	2	9	83	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	70	60	80	74
Corn Emerged	51	32	55	48
Soybeans Planted	9	6	10	11
Winter Wheat Headed	94	78	NA	NA
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	30	24	43	43
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	5	4	6	5
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	6	1	9	14
Peanuts Planted	17	0	26	30
Cotton Planted	40	15	55	67

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF May 4 – 10, 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	75	51	81	45	63	2	576	557	1.12	9.12	0.52	12.34	-2.89
Norfolk	74	57	83	48	66	2	668	594	0.13	9.46	0.86	14.23	-1.75
Richmond	77	55	84	50	66	3	718	645	2.65	14.47	6.01	18.84	3.89
Roanoke	76	52	82	46	64	2	612	NA	0.50	7.72	-1.05	10.54	-4.51
Wash/Dulles	72	50	82	44	61	1	525	NA	2.60	11.35	3.36	15.31	1.52

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

BATH (Rodney Leech)

The rain this week helped tremendously with pastures and hay growth.

Thursday, May 8. Fruit set has now occurred on apples and peaches. The fruit is measuring about 10-12mm.

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Hay cutting continued last week with producers feeling somewhat good about yields. Heavy storms on Thursday night gave producers 1.5 to 3 inches of rain over the area and high winds lodged some wheat in localized areas of fields. Early planted soybeans are slow to emerge but this rainfall helped the situation.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is surplus in most areas with surface water and groundwater reserves recharging. We have had about four inches of rain since late last week. As soon as small grain crops ripen harvesting and planting of soybeans into crop stubbles will begin in earnest. Small grain crops look good with some lodging seen, mostly due to heavy rains. Vegetable producers are harvesting a bumper crop of strawberries and trying to get into wet fields to set transplants in plastic covered raised beds.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Haying is under way although momentarily halted due to the rain. Although several hay fields are in excellent shape, the hay harvest is expected to yield below normal. Hay currently being harvested is being loaded directly on trailers for delivery with very small amounts being stored due to concerns of another drought and hay shortage. Recent storm events and high winds have resulted in wind damage to some wheat and barley fields. Farmers have taken advantage of dry days and are waiting to finish corn planting. Early planted corn has emerged.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

About 6 inches of rain fell across the area since last Thursday. Creeks and rivers were running full and some flooding on bottoms.

FREDERICK (Michael Clem)

Earlier in the week provided suitable days for field work. However, a slight breeze during this period conflicted with orchard spraying. The latter part of the week brought rain and thunderstorms. Rainfall was well over an inch since