

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts & Jamie Stowe)** Tobacco planting continues to progress, but the recent rains has slowed it down. Disease concerns in the greenhouse are mounting because of the length of time that the plants have been in the house. Corn is being planted and what has emerged looks very good. There has been no small grain harvest. Farmers are trying to get hay harvested in a timely manner, but there is a lot of hay on the ground that has been rained on and they are calling for more showers this week.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Of: May 12 – 18, 2008**

**Number: 10**

**Released: May 19, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 18, 2008**

The Commonwealth experienced a cool and wet week. Due to seed rot brought on by the wet and cool weather, some growers were replanting corn. Days suitable for field work were 3.2. Little progress was made on soybean plantings as growers waited for wet fields to dry. Fifteen percent of soybeans were planted, 5 percent less than the average. The first cutting of hay was ready to harvest throughout most of Virginia. Some growers continued to wait for drier weather before cutting hay, while others cut and baled between rain storms. Other farming activities for the week included planting tomatoes and sweet corn, harvesting early vegetables, transplanting tobacco, and preparing to harvest barley.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 18, 2008	0	0	62	38
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	3	26	57	14
Livestock	2	4	24	64	6
Hay, Other	2	7	30	49	12
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	31	62	7
Corn	0	3	21	62	14
Winter Wheat	1	3	25	52	19
Barley	0	1	24	66	9
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	14	68	18
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	50	50	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	30	45	25
Apples, All	0	0	26	70	4
Peaches	0	10	42	46	2
Grapes	0	5	20	75	0
Oats	0	0	12	74	14

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	85	70	86	85
Corn Emerged	71	51	60	61
Winter Wheat Headed	99	94	NA	NA
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	67	30	79	77
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	22	5	15	13
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	10	6	68	49
Peanuts Planted	24	17	54	60
Cotton Planted	50	40	81	86
Soybeans Planted	15	9	16	20
Soybeans Emerged	1	NA	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF May 11 - 17, 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	69	46	78	41	57	-5	657	663	1.24	10.32	0.86	13.56	-2.58
Norfolk	71	51	81	44	61	-5	766	712	1.57	NA	NA	NA	NA
Richmond	72	50	81	45	61	-4	813	761	2.25	16.73	7.39	21.11	5.24
Roanoke	70	51	76	44	60	-3	703	NA	0.47	8.05	-1.64	10.87	-5.11
Wash/Dulles	67	46	76	41	57	-4	590	NA	5.29	16.64	7.75	20.59	5.89

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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#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Heavy, frequent rains most of the week. Excellent potato crop. Delay in planting of soybeans and last of corn due to wet weather. Wheat heads filling out good. Should be a good wheat crop yield wise.

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Continued rains and winds have caused some lodging in the barley crop. Some diseases such as scab, septoria leaf, and glume blotch have also been reported in wheat. A few isolated problems with white grubs and slugs have been reported in corn. Full-season soybean planting has been slowed by wet weather. First hay cuttings have been very good, but baling has been hampered by wet conditions.

##### KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Small grain harvest has not yet started. Rains last week caused some lodging in grain fields. Pastures are benefiting from moisture.

##### MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Cold and wet weather for much of the week. No small grains have been harvested for grain yet. Much hay has been harvested and has been baled luckily between rains. Farmers are hesitant to cut down any more. Corn replanting and planting continues. Some low ground fields still have not been planted. A few beans have been planted, but are not fairing well due to the rain and cool temps.

##### RICHMOND (Kelly J. Liddington)

Hay harvest has been delayed due to the weather. Growers are waiting for good weather and hoping to get into those fields this week.

##### WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

We have had 5-7 inches of rain across the area over the past 8 days which has halted or slowed all field work. Corn is up and looking good for the most part. Some fields are on the yellow side due to the cooler temps, but most fields have good stands. Not much soybean planting due to wet fields. Heavy rains and wind have lodged some of the small grain which will make extra harvest problems. Early vegetable harvest continues as well as some vegetable planting where fields are not too wet. First cutting hay needs cutting but has been too wet.

#### WESTERN

##### BATH (Rodney Leech)

Rainy wet conditions have limited field work and cool damp nights have slowed grass growth some.

#### CENTRAL

##### BEDFORD (Scott Baker)

The hay harvest is underway but is off to a slow start due to cool temperatures and rainfall. Yields and stands are variable, but in general appear to be better than Spring 2007.