

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)

Pasture and hayfields are looking much improved over last season. Most hay producers have gotten an excellent first cutting. Some fields that were too wet at optimal maturity are still being harvested.

Corn planting is mostly over. We have seen some damage to stands in scattered fields from excess water. Overall the corn crop looks good and producers are preparing to side dress plants at about the 18-24" stage.

Soybean planting is getting underway. Many full season fields have been planted and as the barley harvest gets farther along more double-crop beans will be planted.

Wheat and barley fields look good except for some lodging due to the heavy rains earlier in the month. Barley harvest is just getting under way. Yields look good.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Wythe Morris)

Scattered showers at night have helped to push germination of crops and development of hay. First cuttings look excellent.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Occasional slug damage has been reported in corn fields mostly due to cool, overcast days. Sunshine and warmer weather late last week stimulated much hay making over extended weekend.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts & Jamie Stowe)

Tobacco planting is nearing completion and should be finished this week. Plants that are in the ground are looking fair thanks to recent rains. Growers are preparing equipment for wheat harvest and beginning to cultivate tobacco. Producers have continued to make hay, although they have had to dodge rain showers. The hay looks thick in most areas and should be good quality. Cattle producers are beginning to wean calves in preparation for tel-o-auction sales.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: May 19 – 25, 2008

Number: 11

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 25, 2008

The week started off with scattered showers and cooler than normal temperatures. As the week progressed, most of Virginia experienced dry and warm weather. Days suitable for field work were 5.4. The warm weather conditions allowed corn and soybean plantings to advance. In several counties, corn was replanted due to cold weather, slug pressure, and flooding problems. Barley and winter wheat harvest has just begun. There is some lodging due to heavy rains earlier in the month; however, the majority of the crop is in good to excellent condition. Other farming activities included making hay, scouting for weeds and insects, weaning calves, and planting and cultivating tobacco.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 25, 2008	0	10	62	28
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	4	24	56	15
Livestock	1	3	20	60	16
Hay, Other	1	6	24	51	18
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	23	59	17
Corn	0	4	31	54	11
Winter Wheat	1	3	22	55	19
Barley	0	2	17	74	7
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	34	56	10
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	40	55	5
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	1	5	70	24
Cotton	0	9	15	43	33
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	40	45	15
Apples, All	0	0	22	64	14
Peaches	1	2	42	52	3
Grapes	0	0	10	80	10
Oats	1	4	18	66	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	90	85	94	92
Corn Emerged	78	71	78	75
Soybeans Planted	23	15	27	31
Soybeans Emerged	9	1	13	15
Winter Wheat Harvested	1	NA	1	1
Barley Harvested	7	NA	6	6
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	89	67	96	90
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	43	22	42	33
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	47	10	96	70
Peanuts Planted	76	24	87	85
Cotton Planted	95	50	94	95

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF May 18- 24 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 May 24	Mar. 1 to May 24 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	49	74	44	60	-4	732	786	.48	10.80	0.32	14.04	-3.08
Norfolk	74	56	82	50	65	-2	874	844	.41	10.18	-0.10	14.43	-3.16
Richmond	75	52	79	48	64	-2	912	891	.21	16.94	6.68	21.32	4.54
Roanoke	73	50	78	46	62	-3	791	NA	.37	8.42	-2.23	11.24	-5.79
Wash/Dulles	69	47	74	43	58	-5	659	NA	.85	17.49	7.61	21.44	5.68

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)

Crops in good shape. Wheat heads filling out nicely. Most corn up and looks good. Soybean planting should pick up next week. Farmers spraying weeds for no-till soybeans. Tomatoes staked and vigor good. Farmers scouting in corn for weeds and insects. Most corn this year is no-till. Farmers applying fertilizer for soybeans.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Great weather this week for haymaking and bean planting. Wheat also loves this cool, clear weather. Land prep for soybean planting continues and haymaking is in full swing. There is some vegetable planting going on; tomatoes, cantaloupes and sweet corn.

Some low land corn still waiting to be planted. Growers could possible get this done if weather stays nice through the first of next week. Several farmers still have considerable acres to plant and will have to make decision to plant corn or beans by June 1st. Corn condition over all looks good. The stands are good, but corn needs some warm sunny weather and some warm nights to get it going. Temperatures overnight still in upper 40s for most of the week. Some side dressing of corn beginning this week.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

The cool, wet weather that dominated the month of May took its toll on corn - in the form of slugs. About 1,000 acres of corn was replanted this week due to heavy slug damage. Damage was worse in heavy residue areas, where banded starter fertilizers were not used, and in certain hybrids that don't grow as fast in cooler weather. Farmers began sidedressing corn, and started planting early soybeans. Barley has reached physiological maturity and will be ready for harvest in another week. Wheat is beginning to dry down and will be ready for harvest in 2 to 3 weeks.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Showers came early in the week but field work resumed as drying conditions took hold mid week on. Corn sidedressing was done on some fields. Corn growth is slow and plants are yellow due to cold temps. Some fields are being damaged by slugs and are being treated, and in some cases, being replanted due to slug damage. Soybeans are going in the ground. Lots of hay cut mid week as it looked like dry conditions would hold through the weekend. Vegetable planting and harvest of early crops continue.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Cool wet weather kept field work to a minimum the first half of the week. More seasonable weather arrived with dryer conditions for the weekend which enabled farmers to get some corn planted and a few fields of hay mowed down.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Cool season grass hay harvesting has begun. Producers who did not fertilize in an attempt to save on production costs are beginning to realize the downside of low yields where fertilizer was not applied.

First Cutting alfalfa is mostly completed. Harvest was started early in an attempt to control alfalfa weevil culturally rather than with chemical controls.

Small grains for harvest are just about completed.

Pastures have reached maturity and need to be clipped so as to enhance vegetative growth while temperatures remain cool and moisture is available.

Rains have begun to be spotty throughout the county rather than rain events that are countywide.

Some early corn plantings have experienced poor germination and some fields have needed to be replanted.