

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, Cont.**

**CAROLINE COUNTY** (McGann Saphir):

Producers are finishing planting of full-season soybeans, waiting for small grains to ripen for harvest and plant double-season soybeans, and getting equipment ready. We are finishing up the first cutting of hay, of which yields are down 1/4 to 1/3 due to dry growing conditions. Moisture conditions are not good. Corn is showing stress until spotty showers and cooling temperatures alleviated the situation temporarily.

**ACCOMACK COUNTY** (James N. Belote):

We are in a drought. Wheat crop is filling out good and looks better. Some fields are too dry to germinate soybeans. Hoping for rain to come.

**ESSEX COUNTY** (Keith Balderson):

Scattered showers helped replenish soil moisture in some fields. Full season soybean planting is winding down. Barley harvest is just beginning with reports of very good test weights.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY** (David Moore):

Corn is twisting looking for rain. Scattered storms are predicted for this week. Soybean stands are off to good start. Corn is still experiencing growing problems. Stands are up and down and having problems with "critters". Cool conditions have caused much of the problems. Much sidedressing of corn has taken place. Small grain is drying down quickly. Field prep for soybeans and planting is in full swing. Veggies are now looking much better due to hot weather. Tomatoes have been staked and tied once and cantaloupes are beginning to "spread the hill". Barley harvesting will likely start at week's end and wheat should follow in about 7-10 days. Most crops would benefit from a soaking rain. Small grain quality, however, will decrease now with every rain.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY** (Sam Johnson):

A couple of very brief showers for the weekend only amounted to a tenth or two, so most fields are still pretty dry. Activities included some corn sidedressing, a few more soybeans planted, more vegetable planting and some early harvest. Some hay was harvested and some initial barley harvested. A good strawberry crop was extended with the dry weather.

**SCOTT COUNTY** (Scott Jerrell):

Strawberry picking is beginning to slow down. Most sheep producers are preparing for hair sheep sale on June 17th.

**WYTHE COUNTY** (Joseph W. Massey):

An isolated downpour on Thursday caused a washout of some of the planted cornfields in the Wytheville area of the county. Other areas received no rain from the storm. Some cornfields will have to be replanted. Pastures are starting to show slightly reduced growth because of a lack of rainfall. Topsoil moisture is sufficient, but subsoil moisture is low. Many ponds used for livestock watering are still low from last year. Hay production continues, with orchardgrass in certain areas showing stunting. Fescue and Alfalfa growth and hay yields seem to be about normal. Livestock quality is good, and marketing is normal for this time of year. Will continue to monitor the rainfall situation.

**SUSSEX COUNTY** (Kevin Wells):

We had a good work week with scattered showers, which helped crop growth. Warm days are stimulating cotton, peanut, corn, and soybean growth and slowing thrips pressure. Wheat is drying down and harvest will start in a few days.



USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week of: May 29-June 4, 2006**

**Number: 13**

**Released: June 5, 2006**

## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2006

Many areas of the Commonwealth had a good work week with spotty rains and some scattered thunderstorms. While a little rain helped to improve crop conditions this week, most areas would like to see more rain very soon. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Average rainfall remained below normal, and the average temperature was an above-normal 74 degrees. While some areas reported that dry conditions have adversely affected newly emerged corn, other areas report that the corn crop looks good. Pastures have suffered from the lack of moisture, and the first cutting of hay remains short. Livestock is reported to be in good condition. Some beef producers are feeding hay to herds on depleted pastures while making arrangements to buy supplemental feed for the summer and fall. Winter wheat is drying out fast, thus an earlier-than-normal harvest is anticipated. Some soybean stands have also suffered from the lack of moisture. Vegetables are looking better due to warm temperatures. Other farm activities this week included planting full season soybeans, harvesting strawberries, preparing to harvest small grains, and making hay.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 7, 2006	10	30	56	4
May 14, 2006	4	20	66	10
May 21, 2006	4	22	71	3
May 28, 2006	8	30	61	1
Jun 4, 2006	9	40	51	0

IN THIS REPORT:

AWIS Weather Table	pg 2
Crop Condition Percent	pg 3
Crop Progress Percent, with comparisons	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 4, 2006**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	92	51	72	5	0.72	-0.05	3
Warrenton	92	55	74	8	0.09	-0.8	1
Winchester 7 SE	94	52	73	7	0.79	-0.09	4
Dale Enterprises	92	50	71	5	0.33	-0.4	4
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	93	53	75	7	0.12	-0.66	1
Roanoke AP	93	58	76	8	0.68	-0.14	3
Waynesboro	90	50	73	8	0.53	-0.19	2
Staunton AG	92	52	73	8	1.3	0.58	4
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	94	53	76	8	0.1	-0.89	1
Piedmont Res ST	94	54	76	8	0.08	-0.82	1
Bremo Bluff	98	54	76	9	1.18	0.27	2
Richmond AP	94	56	77	8	0.18	-0.66	2
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	90	63	76	7	1.04	0.28	2
Wallops Island	85	57	73	4	0.42	-0.28	2
Williamsburg	90	57	76	6	0.37	-0.64	2
Keysville	93	54	75	8	0.2	-0.71	1
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	89	49	70	7	1.67	0.82	3
Wytheville	86	48	68	5	0.5	-0.28	2
Saltville	92	51	71	7	0.72	-0.24	2
Richlands	88	49	70	11	0.89	-0.08	3
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	92	52	74	7	0.9	-0.1	3
Danville AG	92	58	77	7	0.61	-0.23	2
Chatham	90	50	73	6	0.19	-0.67	3
Martinsville	90	52	73	6	0.67	-0.24	2
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	92	60	75	5	0.9	0.06	2
Oceana	91	58	74	5	1.31	0.42	2
Emporia	90	57	75	7	0.62	-0.29	1
Newport News	91	55	77	7	0	-0.84	0

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

**WEATHER & CROPS**

Week Of May 29-June 4, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	6	20	35	35	4
Livestock	1	4	23	64	8
Other Hay	7	22	37	29	5
Alfalfa Hay	4	14	40	36	6
Corn	1	5	32	55	7
Winter Wheat	3	10	34	44	9
Barley	2	13	34	45	6
Flue-cured Tobacco	0	8	36	48	8
Burley Tobacco	0	0	1	99	0
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	29	57	14	0
Peanuts	0	0	20	80	0
Cotton	0	8	42	50	0
All Apples	0	0	15	85	0
Peaches	0	4	32	63	1
Grapes	0	0	13	87	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Emerged	94	83	89	91
Soybeans Planted	49	46	49	43
Soybeans Emerged	29	22	36	25
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	1	2	4
Barley Harvested	7	2	12	17
Tobacco, Burley Transplanted	73	50	61	69
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured Transplanted	86	69	88	86
Peanuts Planted	94	93	91	96
Cotton Planted	100	98	99	100

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

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

**FAUQUIER COUNTY** (Timothy Mize):

Pastures and other crops need rain. There are concerns that water sources that normally run until July or August will be dry this month.

**PAGE COUNTY** (William Whittle):

Scattered thunderstorms this week. Averaged a little over an inch of rain; however, we are still in water deficit. Newly emerged corn has been affected and pastures look as they would in mid-July.

**ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY** (Jon Repair):

Hot and dry conditions this week with some spotty showers. Most areas remain dry. We are extremely critical at this point in regard to moisture. Pasture growth has stopped and hay yields are off 20-40

percent. Hay re-growth is nonexistent except alfalfa. Corn and soybeans are suffering tremendously

**CAMPBELL COUNTY** (Scott Reiter):

Pasture and hay growth have sharply declined this week with the high temperatures and lack of rain. Some scattered thunderstorms brought some relief in small areas. Beef producers are starting to feed hay to herds on depleted pastures. Other beef producers are making plans to buy supplemental feed for summer and fall months. A survey of producers this week showed a 25-35 percent of normal first cutting hay yield. Flue tobacco is being cultivated and sidedressed in spite of no rain. Some transplants have died in spots where irrigation is not available.