

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Heat and drying soil conditions have corn twisting in the afternoons. Peanuts and cotton are not stressed from the heat so far. Some soybeans are slow germinating due to dry topsoil. Growers have combines out, ready for wheat harvest as soon as moisture levels drop.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Cool, wet, weather early in May caused a complete stand failure of 175 acres of cotton in Chesapeake. We saw morning temperatures of 41 degrees in May which caused damping off disease to reduce cotton stands to unmanageable stand levels. Wheat harvest may get under way next week. Grain moisture was too high this week. Soybean planting continues and should be completed in a timely manner with good soil moisture conditions. Very little re-plant concerns thus far. High temperatures this weekend should finish the strawberry crop for 2008.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Most of the first hay cuttings are complete with good yields. Corn is doing well so far. Fruit crops are looking good right now. All crops are in dire need of rainfall, with some of the heavily grazed pastures starting to show heat and drought

stress. Results of last year's drought beginning to show on some mature trees, in both urban and forest settings.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Hot, dry conditions are threatening to set up conditions similar to early last year. Hay yields are across the board with some producers being 10-15% short, others 30% over normal yields. Cattle are still struggling due to slow grass growth. Sheep continue strong, with producers preparing for and looking forward to a strong breeding stock sale next Saturday.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Farmers are finishing up corn planting and getting into the first cutting of hay. Due to dry conditions last summer farmers are spraying thistles and weeds that have a deeper root system and competing with the forages

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Lack of rain and cooler than normal temperatures seems to have slowed pasture and meadow growth substantially. This past week, two days of rain equaling almost 3/4 of an inch of precipitation, may give some temporary relief. Hay yields are still suffering from last year, with most farmers reporting shortages in the 1/4 to 1/3 range. Vegetable crops continue on strong, with some micronutrient deficiencies showing up in early planted half runner beans.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of: June 2 - 8, 2008

Number: 13

Released: June 9, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 8, 2008

Virginia experienced scattered showers, with heavier rains in the eastern part of the State. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. The majority of corn is in good to fair condition. Cool temperatures and lack of water in some areas have stunted corn growth and caused some yellowing. Most of this can be corrected with warmer weather and timely rains. The hay crop looks good as farmers complete their first cutting. The initial hay yields are favorable. Tobacco transplanting has slowed down as some farmers wait for rain. The majority of Virginia's tobacco is in good condition. Other farming activities included making hay, planting soybeans, side-dressing corn with nitrogen, harvesting strawberries, and attending Grain Field Day.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 8, 2008	5	24	65	6
June 1, 2008	1	16	65	18
May 25, 2008	0	10	62	28
May 18, 2008	0	0	62	38
May 11, 2008	1	9	62	28

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	6	27	53	13
Livestock	1	4	18	62	15
Hay, Other	1	5	26	50	18
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	24	55	20
Corn	1	3	27	59	10
Winter Wheat	1	3	18	60	18
Barley	0	3	18	71	8
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	0	15	70	15
Tobacco, Burley	0	4	38	52	6
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	0	53	46	1
Peanuts	0	0	11	87	2
Cotton	1	0	22	63	14
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	20	45	35
Apples, All	0	0	20	77	3
Peaches	0	0	22	72	6
Grapes	0	1	3	96	0
Oats	0	0	9	76	15

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Emerged	94	82	95	92
Soybeans Planted	48	33	51	49
Soybeans Emerged	37	21	40	37
Winter Wheat Harvested	4	2	4	6
Barley Harvested	13	10	15	22
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	100	93	100	98
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	87	62	92	81
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	82	60	100	89
Peanuts Planted	100	95	100	97

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF June 1 - 7, 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 June 7	Mar. 1 to June 7 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	62	95	54	75	6	1007	1034	0.64	NA	NA	14.72	-4.15
Norfolk	87	66	101	58	77	5	1164	1119	0.01	NA	NA	16.99	-2.31
Richmond	90	66	100	60	78	7	1219	1154	0.62	NA	NA	21.91	3.35
Roanoke	89	66	96	57	78	9	1093	NA	1.06	NA	NA	13.17	-5.64
Wash/Dulles	85	63	95	56	74	6	953	NA	2.06	NA	NA	24.11	6.26

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°)); 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

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Hot weather and recent showers are really pushing corn. Fields are showing some yellowing due to nitrogen and sulfur deficiencies caused by cool wet conditions earlier. Corn is now growing out of that. Still some signs of early season grub and slug problems as some stands are erratic. No known corn pest problems currently. Full season soybean planting is well underway and many producers are done with that and will plant the majority of their beans after small grains. Dribbling of N on corn is in full swing with some producers already done. Producers are making some post emergent treatments on corn for escape weeds and grasses. Land prep continues for soybean planting. Barley harvest has begun. Moisture is good, test weight is very good and yields are average to above average. Wheat is ripening fast and harvest may begin next week in some areas. Vegetable producers are planting tomatoes, cantaloupes, peppers and sweet potatoes. Sweet corn and early tomatoes look good.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

More rain during the week slowed field work again. May have had some barley cut if not for the rain. Hard rains and wind in some cases lodged more barley and wheat. Corn side dressing continued. Vegetable planting and harvest continued.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Severe storms passing through on Wednesday caused some damage to trees and farm buildings. Moisture levels adequate to surplus in storm paths. Some hay making between showers.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

A week of extremely hot/dry weather began to take a toll on crops. Tobacco appears excellent but is in need of rainfall. Late planted tobacco is suffering as most has not set roots. Small grains harvest could begin this week. Most producers have baled last of 1st cutting of hay. Both hay and pasture are deteriorating quickly due to high temperatures and lack of rainfall.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Three to four inches of rain fell during the week. There was temporary flooding in low lying areas. High winds and electrical outages in some areas. Replanting some corn in wet areas due to slugs and cut worm damage. Finishing up beans, harvesting barley and wheat and planting double crop beans. Hay harvest is progressing well.

FREDERICK (Michael Clem)

Nearly every day was suitable for field work. However, several days brought brief afternoon thunderstorms. Some were severe with high winds. Apples are approximately 25-30mm.

ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)

Slug counts in no-till research plots in the northern part of the county continued to be high under some conditions. There have been numerous reports of excessive slug damage necessitating replanting of the summer crop. The recent hot temperatures should reduce favorable conditions for slug activity. However, farmers should continue scouting fields for signs of slug damage.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Hay harvest continues. Quantity is good but quality is diminishing. Producers are harvesting excess pasture growth as well.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Widespread thunderstorms with heavy rain and wind have caused a lot of wheat and barley to lodge. Farmers are continuing to fertilize corn crops with side dress nitrogen, when possible. Hay making has been negatively impacted by daily rainstorms.