

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

What a difference three weeks make! We went from wet, muddy planting conditions to dry ground that has stopped soybean planting. The high temperatures and winds have really dried out the soil surface over the last week. It has also dried wheat as harvest begin this week. Several growers report moisture levels from 10.5 - 12 percent. Test weight has also been good - 60-63 lbs/bushel. Other activities include sidedressing corn, spraying peanuts for weeds, and baling straw. Corn has been stressed this week as many fields were noted as twisting during the heat of the day. Hay harvest is complete with average yields for the season.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Hot dry weather has made emerging crops of corn and soybeans suffer this week. Both crops were rolled in leaves this week and struggling with immature root system in increasing dry soils. Wheat harvest is well under way with very good yields and test weights reported. Most double cropped

soybeans are being planted behind the combine with some soil moisture, but additional rain is needed to make a complete stand of soybeans. Corn continues to struggle with early May cold temperatures followed by dry soil conditions with excessive heat.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Other than the 0.5"+/- of rain we received from storms on Saturday, the soil moisture level is getting low, threatening recently planted crops such as corn and forages. Fruits could suffer if this dry spell continues.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Weather conditions are causing concerns - little rainfall and extreme temperatures are stressing cool season grasses. A strong storm front that came through a portion of the county Monday did considerable damage to one vegetable producers field, wiping out zucchini, yellow squash, strawberries, green beans, peppers, and cucumbers.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**

**Week Of: June 9 - 15, 2008**

**Number: 14**

**Released: June 16, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 15, 2008**

Despite scattered showers this week, most of Virginia continued to suffer from drought stress. High temperatures and windy weather contributed to the drought stress. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Good progress was made on the barley and wheat harvest. Although some wheat and barley was lodged due to heavy rains in May, yields still look promising. Hay making continued this week. The quality of hay not yet cut diminished due to the heat and lack of water. Most of the full season soybeans are planted. The corn crop improved slightly with the recent light showers, however, twisting and drought stress has slowed growth progress. Other farming activities included preparing fields for pumpkins and winter squash, sidedressing corn, spraying peanuts for weeds, and baling straw.

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**TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT**

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 15, 2008	8	34	55	3
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

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FLD ENUM

RONALD NORTON  
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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	7	30	54	8
Livestock	1	5	20	60	14
Hay, Other	2	7	31	48	12
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	26	59	14
Corn	2	5	30	46	17
Winter Wheat	1	3	16	63	17
Barley	0	4	17	75	4
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	2	15	74	9
Tobacco, Burley	0	3	32	62	3
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	0	63	36	1
Peanuts	0	0	16	80	4
Cotton	0	0	30	70	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	15	40	45
Apples, All	0	0	23	71	6
Peaches	0	3	32	62	3
Grapes	0	0	9	90	1
Oats	0	0	19	70	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Emerged	99	94	99	96
Soybeans Planted	53	48	56	56
Soybeans Emerged	41	37	46	45
Winter Wheat Harvested	22	4	7	11
Barley Harvested	63	13	37	38
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	100	87	99	93
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	100	82	100	93

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF June 8 - 14, 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 14	Mar. 1 to June 14 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	50	87	40	62	-1	1202	1183	0.10	0.74	0.94	14.80	-4.93
Norfolk	75	55	89	44	65	-1	1380	1280	0.00	0.01	-0.99	15.41	-4.60
Richmond	77	53	91	45	65	0	1425	1310	0.39	1.01	-0.59	22.33	2.92
Roanoke	76	53	87	43	64	0	1298	NA	0.53	1.59	-0.13	13.57	-6.09
Wash/Dulles	73	49	85	39	61	-1	1140	NA	0.46	2.52	0.54	24.26	5.46

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)

Full season soybean planting is almost complete. Wheat harvest just beginning. Should pick up greatly by end of next week. First yields very good and above average so far. Soybeans off to a good start. Potato crop potential excellent. Stringing of tomatoes. No harvest yet. Will start end of June or July 1<sup>st</sup>. Scouting for insects and disease in all crops. Applying of fertilizer for soybeans and sidedressing of corn. Farmers very optimistic. Fertilizer prices at record levels. Some corn switched to beans because of high fertilizer prices. Some soybean fields will receive fertilizer below soil test recommendations because of extremely high prices according to some growers.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Most barley harvested and starting on wheat. Yields are good to very good and TW (test weight) is very good to excellent so far. Some wheat still has green stems especially where down due to past rain and wind. Full season soybean planting is about over and stands look good. Some post emergent applications of herbicides on soybeans beginning and DC soybeans beginning to be planted. Moisture in this area is still good to very good, but is drying out quickly. Corn has finally got its color back and looks good. Past very hot days and nights plus high humidity have really set corn off. Some fields have grown 2 feet in 10 days. Timely rains need to continue. Vegetables look good.

#### WESTERN

##### HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Midweek showers helped keep things in good shape. Hot dry weather early in the week allowed some hay making with above average yields.

##### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Higher than average temperatures all week (high 80s to mid 90s). Minimal rainfall (0.45 inches).

##### ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

High temperatures and very spotty showers are taking their toll. Corn growth is slowing and pasture and grass hay re-growth has virtually stopped. Hay not cut has turned very quickly in the last 3-5 days. Small grains have also been suffering with high temps and little rain. Very difficult to plant

summer annuals at this time, the ground is so hard the planters are having problems getting deep enough into the soil for proper seed planting depth.

#### SOUTHERN

##### LUNENBURG (Katie Baker)

The high temperatures and no rain of early June are starting to have an impact on second cutting of hay/alfalfa and corn crops. Pasture fields are beginning to show signs of drought stress by browning up while corn in some parts of the county is beginning to twist from the high heat and no rain.

##### PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Spotted thunderstorms late in the week brought much needed rain to crops around the county. Flue tobacco is looking good. Most producers have finished lay-by. Wheat harvest is well underway but will be delayed a few days because of rain. Soybean planting is nearly complete. Corn appears well but some has begun to twist and show signs of stress. Producers have finished first hay cutting. High temperatures and low moisture have taken a toll on hay and pasture land.

#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain producers are harvesting wheat and barley. The yields look good despite the fact that there was much lodging due to excessive rains last month. Corn producers are finishing up top-dressing corn. Fields that needed to be replanted due to excessive moisture that drowned corn plants and led to root rot are mainly being top-dressed. Stands that were planted with no problems are well into growth, but are starting to show some signs of moisture stress, as conditions have been very dry since the end of the rains in May. Vegetable farmers are preparing fields for late vegetables like pumpkins and winter squash and staking tomatoes. Strawberry season, which was very good is pretty much over, and blueberries are coming in nicely. Farmers with irrigation are irrigating heavily due to the recent lack of rain.