

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Wheat harvest is in full swing with a very good crop reported by most. Yields and test weights are good. Some yield reductions because of head scab, but most farmers are harvesting an above average crop. A shower of rain dropped 1/2 inch this week which gave some help to soybeans planted recently. Farmers are coping with heavy smoke from two regional forest fires burning in this area.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

It's been dry. We had a sprinkle or two, which helped. In general, we have less moisture than normal for this time of year. Showers are needed. We had cooler nights earlier this spring which caused the crops to have a slow start.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Lack of rainfall is impacting farmers greatly due to insufficient pasture regrowth, lack of hay regrowth, and surface waters drying up. To date, we are 4.27 inches short of rain which, combined with last year's drought, and puts us in a rainfall deficit of over 23 inches. Scattered showers continue, but are very localized and ineffective.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

We have been getting some showers in the evening and night that has helped the forages grow.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Rainfall delays barley harvest and soybean double crop planting. Corn replanting brought on by wet soils and poor stands in low places is now complete. Plentiful forages from pasture and hay production. Delayed harvest reduces quality of hay.

FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Rainfall has been adequate or above all spring. In some areas the constant rains have delayed harvest or lowered the quality of hay, although yields are normal. Portions of the county have had to replant some corn and soybeans due to wet conditions prior to and following planting.

MADISON (Brad Jarvis)

Farmers in the southeastern part of Madison County suffered major crop losses due to hail storms. The corn crop was defoliated and wheat is on the ground. Currently, data is being collected to compile a complete damage assessment report.

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**WEATHER
 &
 CROPS**



Week Of: June 16 - 22, 2008

Number: 15

Released: June 23, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 22, 2008

Severe storms passed over the Commonwealth this week. Northern and central counties experienced hail damage on several hundred acres of crops, including corn, soybeans, and wheat. Damage assessments were in progress. Most of the south and west parts of the State received insufficient rainfall and continue to suffer from drought stress. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Farmers whose fields received damage from the storm made plans to replant with soybeans. In areas unaffected by the storm, good progress was made on small grain harvests. Despite some lodging from rain showers, wheat yields are better than expected. Other farming activities included harvesting hay, planting pumpkins, harvesting blueberries, and thinning apples and peaches.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 22, 2008	9	31	57	3
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	2	9	29	48	12
Livestock	0	2	13	64	21
Hay, Other	0	4	25	54	17
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	31	54	11
Corn	1	6	25	51	17
Soybeans	1	5	26	63	5
Winter Wheat	0	1	9	68	22
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	5	22	64	9
Tobacco, Burley	0	1	31	63	5
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	0	73	26	1
Peanuts	0	0	14	85	1
Cotton	0	0	21	73	6
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	40	35
Apples, All	0	0	23	61	16
Peaches	0	0	24	63	13
Grapes	0	1	2	90	7
Oats	0	2	19	71	8

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	8	NA	9	8
Soybeans Planted	76	53	67	65
Soybeans Emerged	63	41	57	55
Winter Wheat Harvested	48	22	31	28
Barley Harvested	87	63	70	64
Peanuts Pegged	14	NA	8	8
Cotton Squaring	2	NA	7	22
Summer Potatoes Harvested	25	NA	0	1

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF June 15 - 21, 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	84	55	90	48	69	-3	1336	1332	0.02	0.76	-1.77	14.82	-5.76
Norfolk	86	66	93	62	76	1	1558	1446	0.18	0.19	-2.18	15.59	-5.47
Richmond	88	61	93	54	75	1	1590	1468	2.46	3.47	1.08	24.79	4.64
Roanoke	84	58	90	53	71	-1	1445	NA	0.66	2.25	-0.30	14.23	-6.39
Wash/Dulles	80	58	84	53	69	-2	1277	NA	1.04	3.56	0.65	25.30	5.54

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

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Showers continue to replenish moisture but unharvested wheat is darkening in color.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Showers have kept corn looking good along with early soybeans. Unfortunately, showers will decrease test weight in wheat. Wheat harvest creeps on. Yields and test weights have been very good to excellent. Some areas still need rain and have curled corn leaves and poor stands of soybeans. A few tomatoes and squash have been harvested with sweet corn coming on strong and should be available by July 1st. Recent surge in commodity prices has excited producers and has sparked interest in contracting corn and soybeans for this season as well as 2009 and 2010.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Barley harvest is over, and wheat harvest has begun. Wheat straw is tough and poses a harvest challenge, but many yields are 100 bu/acre and higher. With the high yields, long lines have been forming at local grain elevators, prompting some farmers to store some of their wheat temporarily in on-farm storage. Corn is beginning to pollinate, and is doing so under ideal conditions. Recent timely rains have ensured that few acres are under any significant level of moisture stress.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Thundershowers early in the week provide continued needed moisture. Hay harvest in full swing with yield estimates above normal.

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Last half of week experienced cooler than average night temperatures. Cooler daytime temperatures midweek. Rainfall this week 0.46 inches.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Moisture levels are becoming very critical throughout most of Rockbridge. Pasture growth is going backwards very quickly due to high temperatures and excessively windy days. Second

cutting grass hay growth has seized. Small grain harvest for grain is beginning.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Rainfall shortages are stressing all growing crops including corn, tobacco, hay, and pasture. Less than 0.5 inch rain was received in parts of the county Saturday, but otherwise no rain fell this week. The drop in temperatures this week did relieve some pressure on crops and animals compared to previous weeks.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

A large hail storm caused seriously damaged to about 300 acres of corn and 100 acres of soybeans and some mixed vegetables in and around Bowling Green on June 19. Hail earlier in the week caused some damage to vegetables in areas around the county. Corn was just beginning to show signs of moisture stress but widespread thunderstorms have brought significant rain to most areas of the county. Corn is generally looking very good. Grain producers are still harvesting wheat (barley is mostly harvested) and planting double-crop soybeans into the wheat stubble. Small grain yields and test weights are good to excellent. Vegetable producers are staking tomatoes, preparing to plant pumpkins, and picking blueberries. Recent thunderstorms with associated hail have caused some damage to fruit and vegetables across the county.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Orange County had hail damage to approximately 600 acres of corn, 200 acres of soybeans and 120 acres of wheat this past week. Most of the soybean damage fields will need to be replanted. Most of the corn damage ranged from 10% to 40%, with about 50 acres needing to be replanted. Wheat damaged ranged from 30% to 100% loss.