

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**LEE (Harold Jerrell)**

Heat and drought conditions continued across the county. Cattle markets are reporting larger numbers of livestock for sale as producers reduce herd size. Some farmers are already feeding a 50% hay crop with little hope for improvement. Some wells are beginning to fail. Pasture fields crunch when walked upon. Agriculture supply stores are reporting poor sales and stating that farmers do not have much needed cash with some asking to be carried until next year. This is the driest year I can ever remember with the hot months of July and August yet to come.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Some areas of the county and region have received scattered showers and are doing okay with precipitation, while others are in dire need of rainfall, for all crops.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

The local producers are setting up and beginning to irrigate tobacco. They are also getting double cropped soybeans planted. Some hay is getting cut late but overall the first hay cutting curing was excellent. Some beef producers are getting prepared for upcoming Virginia Quality Assured sales.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Our last good rains were two weeks ago, and soil moisture is again becoming an issue. Corn is beginning to silk and in need of rain. Small grain harvest is moving briskly, cotton is squaring and peanuts are setting pegs.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade) (continued)**

Double crop soybean planting is slow as topsoil begins to dry.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Light shower this week gave short-term boost to crops. Like most parts of state, we need a significant rain event to recharge soil. Crops are currently holding their own, but until that rain event occurs, we need those showers every week to keep crops from stalling. Wheat yields are good. With good weather, wheat harvest should be finished next week. Most farmers are following combines with no-till planters and putting soybeans into the ground. Clear skies have most farmers on schedule for planting double-crop soybeans and cutting hay.

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Hay making continues with yields around average and some cases above average. Midweek thunder showers offered relief from very hot early week and some much needed moisture. Wool pool on Tuesday had 52 producers marketing 14,250 pounds of wool.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

Dry weather continues to take its toll on all crops and forages throughout most of the county. The southern part of the county is excessively dry and at the critical stage for all types of crops and forages. Calves are being weaned early and shipped to market to conserve on both stored feed and pasture.



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: June 18 – June 24, 2007**

**Number: 16**

**Released: June 25, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 24, 2007**

Dry weather conditions continue to take its toll on all crops and forage throughout most of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Topsoil moisture was mostly short. Producers are harvesting wheat but are holding off on planting double cropped soybeans until soil moisture conditions improve. Wheat yields are reported as good. Hay making continues with yields ranging from average to above average. Cattle markets are reporting larger numbers of livestock for sale as producers reduce herd size. Calves are being weaned early and shipped to market to conserve feed and pasture. Corn is beginning to tassel and is entering a critical stage for ear and kernel growth. Tobacco layby and early topping continued. Other activities this week include post emergence spraying, scouting fields for weeds and insects, and finalizing the wheat harvest.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 24, 2007	25	43	32	0
June 17, 2007	11	39	49	1
June 10, 2007	19	33	46	2
June 3, 2007	13	32	53	2
May 27, 2007	10	47	43	0

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**Due to budget constraints we have had to reduce the size and content of the weather table. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.**



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	11	21	44	22	2
Livestock	1	8	27	57	7
Other Hay	8	22	45	24	1
Alfalfa Hay	6	15	42	32	5
Corn	4	13	44	36	3
Soybeans	0	5	49	45	1
Winter Wheat	3	7	28	52	10
Barley	1	8	33	52	6
Flue-cured Tobacco	2	6	18	55	19
Burley Tobacco	0	26	54	18	2
Dark fire-cured Tobacco	0	1	46	50	3
Peanuts	0	0	12	80	8
Cotton	0	1	19	65	15
Summer Potatoes	0	0	25	50	25
All Apples	3	5	39	53	0
Peaches	37	20	30	13	0
Grapes	0	7	24	69	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	11	3	12	10
Soybeans Planted	71	57	71	70
Soybeans Emerged	61	47	58	59
Winter Wheat Harvested	40	8	39	37
Barley Harvested	80	45	80	75
Peanuts Pegged	11	0	9	9
Cotton Squaring	8	4	32	32

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 24, 2007**

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 16	Mar. 1 to June 16 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	87	60	93	53	73	1	1462	1358	.01	1.98	-.80	17.74	-3.13
Norfolk	87	68	96	63	77	1	1538	1476	.14	2.15	-.60	14.05	-7.23
Richmond	91	65	99	60	78	3	1652	1496	.02	1.56	-1.04	16.90	-3.46
Roanoke	89	63	95	56	76	3	1666	NA	.11	1.46	-1.29	14.68	-5.99
Wash/Dulles	87	61	95	53	74	2	1432	NA	.05	2.13	-1.00	13.44	-6.61

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86<sup>o</sup>) + daily minimum (50<sup>o</sup>))/2-50<sup>o</sup>; where 86<sup>o</sup> is used if the maximum exceeds 86<sup>o</sup> and 50<sup>o</sup> is used if the minimum falls below 50<sup>o</sup>.  
 \* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.  
 N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

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

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe)**

Conditions are extremely dry. Thrips have hit soybeans hard in some areas of the county and even causing them to have to replant in at least one place. Pasture and hay land look particularly poor and some producers are already discussing feeding hay to their cattle. Tobacco is looking pretty good. Home gardeners hit the office hard last week with tomato problems.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir) (continued)**

and hayfields are starting to brown up and are not putting on much new growth. Vegetable farmers are planting pumpkins and fall vegetables like winter squash

**EASTERN**

**ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Rain is badly needed. Only .25 inches received in most areas. Water needed for corn to get proper height for optimum yield. Most will tassel around July 4. Wheat harvest started this week. Yields are fair to good. Fall tomatoes are being planted this week. Spraying of post emergence herbicides in soybeans is continuing. It's too dry to plant soybeans behind wheat in some areas and rain badly needed to assure a good stand in soybeans. Most beans will be double cropped behind wheat this year so farmers or very busy.

**CENTRAL**

**BUCKINGHAM (Mark D. Davis)**

Value-Added producers weaned their calves last week and are preparing for the sale in August. The cool spell was a blessing to assist with that transition. Much of the county has not had any rain to speak of in weeks. High temperatures and lack of rainfall is hindering crop production.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Grain farmers are harvesting wheat and planting soybeans into the wheat stubble. Moisture conditions are becoming critical again as we have gone without significant rain for over two weeks. Some producers are harvesting wheat but holding off on planting soybeans until soil moisture conditions improve. The corn crop generally looks good due to decent rainfall almost a month ago, however it is beginning to show signs of stress again and is entering the critical period of tasseling and silking. If adequate rain does not come, pollination and ear-fill will be severely affected. Pastures

**RICHMOND**

The dry conditions continue to worsen. Corn will try to tassel this week with much of it at less than optimum physical condition. Pastures and hay fields really took a beating this past week with some producers having to start feeding hay just baled last month.