

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**EASTERN**

**ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Wheat yields are very good and above average. There are problems with delivery and unloading due to heavy volume. Many soybeans will be planted very late because of late finishing with wheat harvest. High cost of farm machinery and lack of young farmers showing up in shortage of combines for harvesting. One grower planted 1,000 acres of wheat and expected to get custom harvesters. Wheat acreage is way up and yields good and that has created some problems. Some farmers who contracted way ahead not benefiting from good wheat prices. Some contracted at 5 dollars or less and had to pay higher production costs. Some contracted two years ahead. A good wheat year for some and not so good for others. Some soybeans reported delivered in 35 pound bags but at 50 pound prices. Prices of inputs, especially fertilizer and fuel, are sky-high. Farmers applying no-till soybean herbicides, planting soybeans and scouting crops.

**KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)**

Wheat harvest is almost complete. Conditions were getting very dry. Sunday rain brought some relief.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Well needed rains fell across most of the area and a lot of corn that was beginning to tassel will begin to fill with grain. Rains were spotty. Most wheat is harvested and DC beans are planted. Post emergent applications of herbicides are being applied to beans. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash and other veggies are looking good and ready for harvest.

**NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)**

Moisture conditions around the county are variable, with some areas receiving adequate rainfall over the weekend and some seeing none. Wheat harvest is wrapping up. Yields are good, and many fields are lodged which has slowed harvest. Some growers have stopped planting soybeans to make more time for wheat harvest. Other activities included spraying herbicides over newly planted soybeans to kill weeds.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Wythe Morris)**

Rain over the holiday weekend has helped to get moisture at a critical time. Vegetable transplants and seedlings are good as well as second cutting of hay.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Farmers are watching pastures dry up and hoping for enough rain for a second cutting of hay. There are more areas of the county that are not receiving rain than areas that are. Nighttime lows in the upper 50's are a relief to the hot, dry days.

**LEE (Harold Jerrell)**

Tomato hornworms were in abundance on burley tobacco beginning about two weeks ago and have spread across the county. Approximately 1.0 inch of rain fell last weekend.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Localized storm showers have left some areas with too much rain and others still in need. Most crops are advancing well, except in those areas damaged by hail and heavy rains.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Of: June 30 – July 6, 2008**

**Number: 17**

**Released: July 7, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 6, 2008**

Scattered rain showers throughout the Commonwealth brought relief to Virginia's crops. However, it will take continual rain throughout the growing season to improve crop conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Double crop soybean planting continued this week. Recent rains have made the ground workable again. Soybean fields that exhibited poor stand, due to a cold wet early spring, were being replanted. The winter wheat harvest was nearing completion. Wheat yields looked favorable. Other farming activities included farmers harvesting second cutting of hay and applying post emergent herbicides to soybeans.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 6, 2008	14	29	52	5
June 30, 2008	18	35	46	1
June 22, 2008	9	31	57	3
June 15, 2008	8	34	55	3
June 8, 2008	5	24	65	6

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	9	13	35	35	8
Livestock	1	5	20	54	20
Hay, Other	4	11	31	39	15
Hay, Alfalfa	0	5	28	49	18
Corn	4	10	29	44	13
Soybeans	3	8	30	54	5
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	21	30	44	5
Tobacco, Burley	0	5	36	44	15
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	1	90	6	3
Peanuts	1	1	14	84	0
Cotton	6	9	29	56	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	9	36	55
Apples, All	0	0	20	70	10
Peaches	1	2	33	59	5
Grapes	0	2	8	80	10
Oats	2	2	21	73	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	33	16	37	34
Corn Dough	1	NA	0	2
Soybeans Planted	86	79	92	86
Soybeans Emerged	74	69	73	74
Winter Wheat Harvested	86	69	85	76
Peanuts Pegged	45	21	40	27
Cotton Squaring	53	26	62	53
Summer Potatoes Harvested	35	30	11	15
Summer Apples Harvested	5	NA	0	5

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF June 29 – July 5, 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 July 5	Mar. 1 to July 5 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	83	59	89	50	71	-3	1640	1643	0.08	1.93	-2.55	15.98	-6.52
Norfolk	89	70	96	68	79	1	1951	1800	1.71	2.00	-2.54	17.40	-5.49
Richmond	89	67	95	63	78	1	1961	1807	0.83	4.34	0.13	25.66	3.73
Roanoke	82	62	87	55	72	-3	1773	NA	0.66	5.12	0.82	17.10	-5.10
Wash/Dulles	84	64	90	58	74	0	1612	NA	0.46	4.42	-0.23	26.16	4.72

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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#### NORTHERN

##### FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

Rainfall continues weekly throughout the county. Most soybean fields that exhibited poor stands due to cold wet weather early have been replanted. Small grain harvest have been average or above. It looks like a number of Fauquier farmers will harvest a second hay crop.

##### FREDERICK (Michael Clem)

A couple days of rain last week brought 0.80 inches of precipitation.

#### WESTERN

##### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly rainfall was 0.51". Temperatures mostly average for the week.

#### SOUTHEASTERN

##### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Some folks are bush hogging fields. Irrigation is still continuing. Planting is at a standstill due to lack of rain, even the little bit we had last week is gone.

##### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rain was a welcome sight this weekend. Most of the county received 0.5-1 inch of rain on July 4th. All crops need the rain but corn is starting the critical silking stage. A large part of the corn was planted in mid to late May and is about waist high at this time. Peanuts and cotton have fared better over the last 7 weeks of no rain than that of other crops.

#### CENTRAL

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain producers are finishing up the last of the wheat harvest and planting a few fields of soybeans that were skipped because of a lack of soil moisture. Recent rains have made the ground workable again. Rains over the weekend have greatly improved the condition of the corn crop which was becoming stressed due to a lack of moisture. The pollination has also been improved as most of the crop is tasseling and silking now; we have received timely rains for good pollination. Another inch or two of rain will probably insure a good corn crop this year. The rains have improved hay and pasture condition, as well. Vegetable farmers are planting pumpkins and preparing fields for other fall crops-broccoli, greens, and winter squash.

##### POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Lack of rain is stressing corn and soybean fields as well as delaying planting not yet complete. Pastures are failing which resulted in producers feeding hay. Some producers have begun a second hay cutting to try to harvest what re-growth there is in fear that the continued lack of rain will result in field failure.