

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Scattered rains received in small pockets of the county. Other than these small pockets, corn is starting to hurt. If rain is not received by next report time some corn may not pollinate. Majority of corn is tasselling and starting to silk. Soybeans are in need of moisture in rain skipped areas to germinate. Wheat yields are average to above average. Rainfall is badly needed. We are in a drought. Potato harvesting has started. Yields are fairly good.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Hot and dry conditions continued to take a toll on hay, pastures, corn, and soybeans. The corn crop has been severely damaged, and many double crop soybeans were planted in dry soils, resulting in poor stands. Rainfall for much of the county has been below 1.5 inches for the past six weeks. Some cattle producers are feeding hay and are concerned about winter feed supplies.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe)

Rains were welcome last week, but were spotty within the county, with some areas receiving 1" and some only receiving 2/10". Tobacco is being irrigated in most areas of the county. Soybeans are stunted and most producers are facing serious problems with deer. Pasture and hay land are in bad shape and some producers have said they will start feeding hay in the next few weeks.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke Jr.)

Moisture conditions are critical. Most tobacco producers are making the second round of irrigation. Topping is progressing slowly because of lack of moisture.

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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: July 2 – July 8, 2007

Number: 18

Released: July 9, 2007

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 8, 2007

Scattered showers stretched across the state again this week as soil moisture conditions continue to deteriorate. Days suitable for work were 6.6. Topsoil moisture was generally very short. Pastures and hayfields are still showing signs of stress. As a result, some farmers are continuing to reduce herd and flock sizes. Concern is also developing as livestock producers begin to feed winter hay supplies. Corn in many areas is showing stress and the need for rainfall is critical as pollination approaches. Double-cropped soybean planting has halted in many areas due to a lack of soil moisture. Most tobacco producers are beginning their second phase of irrigation and topping is slowly occurring because of the dry conditions. Peanuts and cotton are reaching the reproductive stage and are in need of water. Potato harvesting has started and yields are reported as good. Vegetable crops are beginning to show signs of stress and are being irrigated in some areas as tomatoes begin to ripen. Other activities this week include herbicide applications, equipment repair, and midsummer deworming.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 8, 2007	41	39	20	0
July 1, 2007	35	44	21	0
June 24, 2007	25	43	32	0
June 17, 2007	11	39	49	1
June 10, 2007	19	33	46	2

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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.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	17	37	32	14	0
Livestock	2	9	28	51	10
Other Hay	12	37	33	17	1
Alfalfa Hay	6	23	40	28	3
Corn	7	25	43	23	2
Soybeans	5	22	52	20	1
Flue-cured Tobacco	3	6	26	48	17
Burley Tobacco	1	17	43	32	7
Dark fire-cured Tobacco	1	8	49	36	6
Peanuts	0	0	26	70	4
Cotton	0	3	58	38	1
Summer Potatoes	0	0	20	50	30
All Apples	35	21	18	26	0
Peaches	51	24	19	6	0
Grapes	0	10	25	65	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	41	26	44	40
Soybeans Planted	95	84	88	89
Soybeans Emerged	75	68	78	80
Winter Wheat Harvested	90	74	76	82
Barley Harvested	100	98	93	97
Peanuts Pegged	40	40	20	29
Cotton Squaring	76	27	64	62
Cotton Setting Bolls	3	NA	3	11
Summer Potatoes Harvested	15	1	15	27
Apples, Summer	1	NA	9	9

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 8, 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 July 7	Mar. 1 to July 7 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	63	91	60	74	0	1806	1671	.18	3.24	-1.52	19.00	-3.89
Norfolk	84	67	92	60	76	-3	1916	1829	.11	3.98	-.87	15.88	-7.47
Richmond	87	65	93	59	76	-1	2024	1835	.43	5.62	1.13	20.97	-1.33
Roanoke	86	64	93	60	75	-1	2026	NA	0	2.63	-1.90	15.85	-6.79
Wash/Dulles	84	63	90	55	73	-2	1777	NA	.76	3.72	-1.17	15.04	-6.75

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; 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>. 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

NORTHERN

(Campbell continued)

ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)

Although there have been a few isolated rain showers in some county locales this past week, conditions continue to be dry. Increased soil moisture is needed, especially as the corn crop matures and approaches the tasseling stage.

about 50% of a normal stand. More beef producers are starting to feed hay as pastures turn brown.

WESTERN

BATH (Rodney Leech)

Spotty thunder showers are keeping pastures green and growing. The first hay harvest cutting is almost complete with average yields. Chief activities include midsummer deworming of livestock and weed control measures.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions have deteriorated tremendously over the past week. The heat has been intense and there has been very little rain. Corn in many areas is showing severe stress. The bottoms of the stalks are browning out and the tops are crimping, wrinkling, and "pineappleing". Corn on sandy ridges is dying. Pastures and hayfields are "browning out". Alfalfa fields are still green, but have shown no significant growth since the last cutting. Soybeans are crimping and withering on sandy ridges and generally showing moisture stress in most areas. If we do not get county-wide rain in the next week we will lose much of the corn and soybean crop.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Southern and Northeast Rockbridge have passed the critical stage. West Central and Northernwestern Rockbridge experienced their first week of no rain. Livestock being fed supplement feed continues to increase daily. Above normal temperatures projected for the upcoming week coupled with no rain in the forecast could certainly put a fork in some areas in regard to agricultural production for this season.

CUMBERLAND (David Smith)

Some areas have not had rain for over a month.

CENTRAL

CAMPBELL (Scott Reiter)

Approximately 1/2 inch of rain covered the county this week, however much more is needed to overcome deficits. Most corn is starting to tassel and could use a good soaking rain. Some late soybean seedings are

PRINCE EDWARD (Bobby Long)

Rains continue to be scattered with some regions of the county receiving fair amounts of rain while others have only seen sparse showers, at best. Tobacco irrigation has begun in some areas. Continued lack of precipitation in some areas of the county over the next couple of weeks will have a negative impact on crop yields.