

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Robyn D. Whittington)

Some areas of the county received relief in the form of showers last week. Overall, total rainfalls (and consequently, crop qualities) still vary greatly across Amelia.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

The corn crop looks good. The county received a small amount of rain over the weekend. It was enough to keep the corn from stressing out. We need more rain to insure a good crop. Small grain harvest is mostly over. Yields have been good to very good. Small fruit growers are harvesting blackberries. Fall crops have been planted by vegetable growers.

POWHATAN/GOOCHLAND (Eric Bowen)

Recent rains have brought much needed relief to corn and soybean crops. Pastures that are under rotational grazing management are showing some improvement due to the recent rains. Many producers continue to feed hay due to poor pasture conditions. Some producers have reported problems with hairpinning while planting soybeans back into wheat fields due to residue.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

The county has been dry most of the week. Rain late Sunday provided some needed moisture.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: July 7 - 13, 2008

Number: 18

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 13, 2008

Virginia experienced scattered rain showers throughout the week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. The recent rain and warm temperatures contributed to the good progress made in corn silking. Despite the good weather, some of the Commonwealth's corn was showing poor stands from the earlier effects of the cool and wet spring. Some corn producers feel that with continual rains the corn crop will be favorable. The winter wheat harvest is almost complete, as well as the planting of double crop soybeans. Hay and pasture conditions improved due to the precipitation. Farmers anticipate another cutting of hay. However, in some parts of the State, the hay and pasture fields are still suffering from the lack of water. In some cases, farmers are feeding livestock hay to compensate for poor pasture growth. Other farming activities included harvesting blueberries, peaches, and blackberries, applying potash to soybean fields, spraying insecticides, and tending to the vegetable crop.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 13, 2008	5	24	64	7
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	15	37	38	5
Livestock	0	2	15	64	19
Hay, Other	3	6	37	49	5
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	23	61	15
Corn	3	10	24	41	22
Soybeans	3	12	31	49	5
Tobacco, Flue Cured	0	12	37	36	15
Tobacco, Burley	0	2	43	37	18
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	0	80	16	4
Peanuts	0	0	20	74	6
Cotton	0	0	39	56	5
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	35	60
Apples, All	0	0	21	75	4
Peaches	0	2	34	62	2
Grapes	0	1	5	90	4
Oats	0	2	13	83	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	55	33	61	54
Corn Dough	11	1	9	11
Soybeans Planted	95	86	99	96
Soybeans Emerged	84	74	84	86
Soybeans Blooming	4	NA	6	9
Winter Wheat Harvested	96	86	97	92
Peanuts Pegged	66	45	42	40
Cotton Squaring	68	53	79	74
Cotton Setting Bolls	8	NA	22	22
Summer Potatoes Harvested	40	35	19	24
Summer Apples Harvested	10	5	4	17
Peaches Harvested	5	NA	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF July 6 - 12, 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 12	Mar. 1 to July 12 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	65	90	63	76	1	1819	1811	0.63	2.56	-2.88	16.61	-6.78
Norfolk	85	70	92	69	78	-1	2142	1984	0.63	2.63	-2.96	18.03	-6.01
Richmond	87	69	90	67	78	0	2154	1984	1.10	5.44	0.26	26.76	3.89
Roanoke	86	67	90	63	76	0	1955	NA	0.64	5.76	0.58	17.74	-5.60
Wash/Dulles	86	67	90	62	77	2	1794	NA	0.05	4.47	-0.98	26.21	4.00

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

FREDERICK (Michael Clem)

Nice warm week with temperatures in the upper 80's to lower 90's. Total rainfall accumulation was 1.86 inches.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The entire county received some much needed rain during the week. Many areas continue to need rain, while others were waterlogged by heavy downpours. Corn, hay and pastures are springing back to life.

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

The county received 2.6 inches of rain this week. Pasture fields are beginning to turn green but it will take time for grasses to respond.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent rains helped most crops to rebound, but it is too late for the early planted corn. Soybeans are being replanted while soil has some moisture. Peanuts and cotton are growing well after the showers.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Brain Jones)

Recent severe storms with rain showers limited fieldwork in many areas. Some damaging hail was reported. Field corn is progressing, but many fields still show signs of the cool, wet, spring. Soybeans are not doing well, and many fields have been replanted multiple times this year. Slugs, cutworms and armyworms have been showing their presence. Alfalfa and the potential for second cutting hay looks good with the recent rain showers.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Recent rains across the county have been highly welcomed. Amounts have been scattered across the county, but most have received significant rainfall amounts. Pastures and second cutting of hay are beginning to show new signs of

growth. Most early planted corn is close to tasseling. Late planted corn has also reaped the benefits of recent rains. Wheat harvest has begun, however, elevators are claiming to be full and it is hard to find local market avenues that will take any wheat at this time.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wheat harvest is just about over and so are plantings of DC beans. Recent showers have really refreshed things up, but more rain is needed for silking and tasseling corn and to finish out the corn crop. Early beans are off to a good start. Some application of post emerge weed control already on DC beans. Vegetables look good, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash all are very tasty. Plans are being made to secure small grain seed for next year