

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Many double crop beans were not planted or did not come up properly due to dry conditions. The extreme temperatures in the early week combined with the lack of rain have severely impacted our corn and beans. Pastures are brown. Some rain occurred this week but was too late for much of our corn.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Scattered showers this week have perked things up but were too late for most corn. Scattered hail caused minor crop damage. Lower Middlesex and Mathews are fairing well right now and will make corn. Other areas will be less fortunate with about 50% or less of a crop. Full season soybeans are hanging on, but double-cropped beans have spotty emergence due to dryness and some producers are planting bare spots and skips. Vegetables with irrigation are faring well. Cantaloupes, tomatoes, peppers, and sweet corn are being harvested. Farm activities include replanting soybeans, post emergent herbicide on double-cropped beans, making hay, vegetable harvest, and crop scouting.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

We experienced a limited shower in the Montross area but not widespread. Most crops still stressed due to dry weather and heat. Corn is trying to tassel and silk but there's not much of an ear to pollinate. Soybeans are living but show minimal growth. Vegetable producers are irrigating where possible and getting decent yields and quality produce. Cattle producers are feeding hay that was supposed to be for next winter.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Midweek rain brought 1.0 - 1.5 inches of rain across the farming area. It will help corn pollination but much more is needed. Vegetable growers are irrigating wherever possible.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Dry weather continues, some of the corn is past the point of help from rain and producers are making crop insurance claims. Double crop soybeans are not germinating in the dry soils, and weed control is very erratic due to weeds being dormant and not taking up chemicals. Cotton and peanuts are growing slow from drought stress.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Wythe Morris)

Spotty rainfall continues in the area. Scattered rain showers along the Blue Ridge Parkway around the edge of the plateau continue to sustain the crops in that area.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Scattered showers have kept crops alive, but with little growth. However, this lack of significant precipitation is causing severe setbacks in many crops' growth, which will show in eventual yield.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: July 9 – July 15, 2007

Number: 19

Released: July 16, 2007

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 15, 2007

Scattered showers continued to help some areas while other locations remained dry. Days suitable for work were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was generally very short. Pastures and hayfields are continuing to show signs of stress with minimal growth occurring. Livestock producers are being faced with the task of finding supplemental feed sources as hay supplies lessen. Corn continues to tassel and silk in most areas. Concern is beginning to develop as dry conditions and high temperatures reach levels that could potentially affect pollination. Full season soybeans remain green and healthy as double cropped soybeans suffer from the dry conditions; lack of germination and emergence has been reported in some areas. Tobacco producers continue topping their crop with pulling also occurring in some areas. Cotton and peanuts are growing at reduced rates due to dry conditions. Vegetable producers continue to irrigate where possible. Cantaloupes, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and potatoes continue to be harvested. Other activities this week include replanting soybeans, spraying soybeans, making hay, crop scouting, and peanut cultivating.

| Week Ending | TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| July 15, 2007 | 45 | 35 | 20 | 0 |
| 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 |



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Address Service Requested

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 | 25 | 42 | 24 | 9 | 0 |
| Livestock | 1 | 8 | 24 | 56 | 11 |
| Other Hay | 18 | 35 | 32 | 14 | 1 |
| Alfalfa Hay | 4 | 23 | 43 | 28 | 2 |
| Corn | 10 | 35 | 37 | 17 | 1 |
| Soybeans | 6 | 29 | 51 | 13 | 1 |
| Flue-cured Tobacco | 4 | 12 | 44 | 37 | 3 |
| Burley Tobacco | 0 | 16 | 35 | 41 | 8 |
| Dark fire-cured Tobacco | 0 | 10 | 65 | 25 | 0 |
| Peanuts | 1 | 3 | 35 | 61 | 0 |
| Cotton | 0 | 15 | 56 | 29 | 0 |
| Summer Potatoes | 0 | 0 | 20 | 50 | 30 |
| All Apples | 12 | 9 | 33 | 46 | 0 |
| Peaches | 42 | 7 | 30 | 20 | 1 |
| Grapes | 0 | 7 | 18 | 75 | 0 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Silked | 69 | 41 | 70 | 60 |
| Corn Dough | 12 | 1 | 24 | 19 |
| Corn Dent | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| Soybeans Emerged | 88 | 75 | 94 | 91 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 8 | 1 | 10 | 13 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| Peanuts Pegged | 43 | 40 | 63 | 48 |
| Cotton Squaring | 80 | 76 | 95 | 82 |
| Cotton Setting Bolls | 30 | 3 | 22 | 29 |
| Summer Potatoes Harvested | 20 | 15 | 19 | 39 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 5 | 1 | 20 | 20 |
| Peaches Harvested | 37 | NA | 4 | NA |

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 15, 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 14 | Mar. 1 to July 14 normal * | Last Week | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 87 | 64 | 94 | 58 | 75 | 0 | 1977 | 1840 | .11 | 3.35 | -2.42 | 19.10 | -4.77 |
| Norfolk | 91 | 72 | 97 | 66 | 82 | 3 | 2120 | 2015 | .18 | 4.16 | -1.78 | 16.06 | -8.27 |
| Richmond | 92 | 69 | 96 | 63 | 80 | 2 | 2217 | 2014 | .08 | 5.73 | .23 | 21.07 | -2.08 |
| Roanoke | 87 | 66 | 94 | 62 | 77 | 1 | 2204 | NA | .87 | 3.49 | -1.96 | 16.70 | -6.82 |
| Wash/Dulles | 91 | 65 | 97 | 60 | 78 | 2 | 1957 | NA | 0 | 3.68 | -1.98 | 15.00 | -7.38 |

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

FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Rainfall has been scattered across the county. While the center of the county has received adequate rainfall at critical times, the northern and southern ends are experiencing severe drought. While first cuttings of hay were off by an average of 40%, a large portion of the county may not get any further cuttings. Some producers are having to pull hay from already tight supplies for summer feeding. It is too early to predict how corn and soybeans will fair. Early planted beans have so far appeared able to withstand the drought stress. However, a significant portion of late planted beans have yet to germinate. Most of the corn looks good, but the early corn is tasseling and rainfall has become even rarer as temperatures have risen.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Wide spread thunder storms during the beginning of the week offered short term relief to the heat and provided timely moisture for crops and pasture.

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Scattered showers continue to help some areas while other locations continue to be well below normal for moisture. High temperatures at the beginning of the week certainly did not help the situation. Second cutting of grass and clover hay is very limited at this time. Some folks are beginning to experience livestock water availability problems. Potato Leafhoppers are infesting alfalfa stands very extensively throughout the Valley. Vineyards are experiencing some major problems with Japanese Beetles.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are critically low. There is irreversible damage to corn yields as heat and dry conditions have prevented proper pollination and stunted many acres of corn. Soybeans are hanging in there but plants are severely stressed and are beginning to abort flowers. Pastures and hayfields are not putting on any growth and have basically shut down (pastures have browned out) until we see some rain. Many areas of the county have received less than an inch of rain over the past six weeks, while a few areas have received close to adequate rainfall. Livestock producers are scrambling for alternative feed sources as scarce supplies of hay are running out. Some are chopping and ensiling corn originally planted for grain harvest.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Scattered rains early in the week seem to have some crops looking a lot better. Though the amount varied throughout the county, everyone at least received some rain. Tobacco producers are full into topping and a few have begun pulling. Pasture land still hasn't recovered and is stunted. Cattle producers are exploring alternative feeding options.