

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)**

Yield potential was reduced 30% - 50% for early planted corn that silked during the hot dry weather before July 5. Several fields of sweet corn were disked under before harvest due to poor pollination. Six inches of rain since July 5 has improved the corn, soybean and vegetable outlook. Soybeans have responded well to the moisture but plant populations in many fields were reduced by poor germination in very dry soil.

cutting of hay looks bleak at this time. Some producers have turned livestock into hayfields to give the pastures a rest.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Rains have been very spotty over the last two weeks. The corn crop in most of the county is in critical need of rain. Pastures and hay fields are beginning to brown out. Producers are scouting corn for insect problems and finishing up herbicide applications on soybeans.

**NELSON (Michael Lachance)**

Ginger Gold apples were being harvested.

**WESTERN**

**ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)**

Temperatures typical of average temps for this time period. Rainfall for the week was 0.28 inches.

**CENTRAL**

**AMHERST (William Seay)**

Dry conditions have returned. Earlier spotty rains greened pastures but continued heat and drying winds have depleted the ground moisture once again. The prospect of a second



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Of: July 14 - 20, 2008**

**Number: 19**

**Released: July 21, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2008**

Most of Virginia continued to suffer from dry conditions. Some parts of the State received isolated showers; however, there was not enough rain to significantly improve crop conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Corn is at the development stage where it suffered most from the dry conditions. Without timely showers, farmers worry that the corn yield will be poor. The soybean crop still has time to recover from the lack of rain, especially the double crop beans. Virginia's Ginger Gold apples were being harvested. The majority of the apples were in good to excellent condition. Some hayfields in southwestern Virginia were in better condition due to the recent rain and cooler temperatures. However, in other parts of the State, hayfields were being used as pasture. Due to the dry conditions, some farmers abandoned attempts for a second cutting of hay. Other farming activities included harvesting tomatoes, peppers, and sweet corn, applying fertilizers, and managing you-pick operations.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 20, 2008	9	34	54	3
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	19	33	38	5
Livestock	1	4	23	54	18
Hay, Other	4	9	30	48	9
Hay, Alfalfa	0	5	27	54	14
Corn	7	16	27	38	12
Soybeans	7	17	34	39	3
Tobacco, Flue Cured	5	17	37	28	13
Tobacco, Burley	0	10	33	46	11
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	11	79	10	0
Peanuts	0	0	16	66	18
Cotton	0	0	36	56	8
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	36	59
Apples, All	0	0	16	66	18
Peaches	0	1	30	57	12
Grapes	0	0	4	82	14
Oats	0	0	19	78	3

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	77	55	80	71
Corn Dough	25	11	28	26
Corn Dent	3	NA	3	3
Soybeans Emerged	96	84	93	95
Soybeans Blooming	18	4	27	24
Peanuts Pegged	81	66	69	58
Cotton Squaring	85	68	86	85
Cotton Setting Bolls	40	8	51	42
Summer Potatoes Harvested	65	40	34	42
Summer Apples Harvested	19	10	16	27
Peaches Harvested	27	5	39	25

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF July 13 - 19, 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 19	Mar. 1 to July 19 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	62	91	59	75	0	1989	1988	0.18	2.74	-3.78	16.79	-7.90
Norfolk	85	70	89	67	78	-1	2335	2178	0.42	3.05	-3.72	18.45	-6.82
Richmond	90	66	93	64	78	0	2335	2173	0.41	5.85	-0.44	27.17	3.13
Roanoke	88	64	90	59	76	0	2130	NA	0.28	6.04	-0.06	18.02	-6.00
Wash/Dulles	90	65	93	61	78	2	1976	NA	1.20	5.67	-0.56	27.41	4.38

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

##### SHENANDOAH (Bobby Clark)

Half of our Wheat Crop was Harvested over the past 7-10 days. We should be finished by the end of this week.

prepare for insect activity in soybeans. Vegetables look good but need rain. Sweet corn, tomato, and pepper harvests are in full swing with cantaloupes and watermelons not far off.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

It has been very dry. Many areas have entered the drought stage. Corn is at critical stages of pollination and grain fill. Rain needed this week or corn could be hurt bad. Most soybeans are double cropped so there still is time. Farmers are actively scouting soybeans. Tomato and potato harvest is in full swing. Fertilizers, such as potash, were still being applied to soybeans. Price of this product has gone not only through the roof but beyond it. Farmers will need an excellent yield if they are to recoup high costs of inputs. The drought is making many farmers nervous. Wheat yield was above average. Harvest was late for some fields and as a result some fields will not be planted to soybeans.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Lack of rain and high temperatures has decreased crop potential and quality in the past week. Early corn ears are not filled to the end. Mid season and late season corn is in need of rain immediately in order to make even a half of a crop. Another week without rain and corn will be significantly hurt. Most beans can wait a little longer but early beans are trying to bloom now and would benefit from shower activity. Some haymaking activity going on. Producers are making post herbicide and nutritional applications to DC soybeans. Producers and agribusiness are gathering information from the recent corn earworm surveys and blacklight catches to better

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Cool nighttime temperatures and the previous week's rain have led to a noticeable green-up. Corn has started to tassel, but no ears are appearing yet.

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

All crops are in need of rain. Peaches and summer apple harvests are good. Hayfields and pastures are suffering and in need of moisture.

##### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Light showers have improved pasture and hay lands considerably; however, not enough rain has fallen to improve deep ground moisture. Vegetable producers are seeing a good year of harvests. Tobacco streak virus was found in one tobacco field. Hornworms and budworms have continued to be a problem, with damage being moderate to severe in most fields. A high population of sphinx moths has been noted, indicating a second wave of hornworms may be coming.

##### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

We had scattered afternoon thunder showers last week. This helped the topsoil in places but still dry 6" deep into soil. Small streams are drying up due to the water table being so low from last year. Apple crop is looking much better this year. Second cutting of hay is a little slow getting ready to cut.