

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**SOUTHEASTERN**

*(Southwestern Continued)*

**VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)**

Widely scattered light rain showers helped soybeans but too little rain to help corn. Corn continues to suffer in hot dry weather.

**WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)**

Parts of the county have received rain.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)**

Pasture conditions have declined to the point that many producers are using their hayfields for emergency pasture. The first cutting of hay yielded less than 50% of the normal production, and many reports have a second cutting at less than 30% in many areas. Spotty storms have provided some moisture for certain areas of the county, but other areas are extremely dry. Even the areas that have received rainfall are about 7 inches below normal in rainfall for the year. Most of this deficit has occurred when hay crops needed moisture the most. Some producers are selling cattle because they are out of pasture. A flash report has been sent for this county, and the Board of Supervisors have signed a resolution and forwarded it to the state government. We will continue to monitor the situation.

**CARROLL (Wythe Morris)**

Scattered showers over the area with no appreciable rainfall totals continue to be the trend in Carroll county.

**LEE (Harold Jerrell)**

July continues to be very dry, especially in the western half of Lee County. Rainfall from January through July normally averages 32.28 inches to date; we have received 17.75 inches near Rose Hill. Farmers continue to feed hay that was cut for this winter and unless changes occur quickly, there will be no second cutting of hay. Some producers have turned their livestock into hay fields for grazing. The worse may yet be to come.



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**WEATHER  
&  
CROPS**



**Week of: July 16 – July 22, 2007**

**Number: 20**

**Released: July 23, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 22, 2007**

The Commonwealth received scattered showers across the state, however many areas still remained dry. Days suitable for work were 5.6. Topsoil moisture was very short. Pasture conditions have declined to the point that some producers are selling cattle. The rain showers helped soybeans, but corn was still showing signs of stress from the dry conditions. Vegetable producers continue to harvest, sweet corn, cantaloupes, squash, cucumbers and tomatoes. Other activities this week include spraying soybeans and corn, equipment repair, scouting fields and irrigating vegetables.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 22, 2007	47	35	18	0
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

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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.**

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	31	39	21	9	0
Livestock	2	11	28	48	11
Other Hay	34	29	26	11	0
Alfalfa Hay	17	35	37	11	0
Corn	26	34	29	10	1
Soybeans	14	33	38	14	1
Flue-cured Tobacco	4	15	46	35	0
Burley Tobacco	0	27	44	24	5
Dark fire-cured Tobacco	0	10	65	25	0
Peanuts	0	13	39	48	0
Cotton	3	9	52	36	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	20	50	30
All Apples	30	20	30	20	0
Peaches	42	20	17	20	1
Grapes	0	14	30	56	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	84	69	82	75
Corn Dough	35	12	38	34
Corn Dent	4	1	6	6
Soybeans Blooming	35	8	31	27
Soybeans Setting Pods	6	1	8	6
Peanuts Pegged	80	43	75	61
Cotton Squaring	88	80	100	90
Cotton Setting Bolls	60	30	55	51
Summer Potatoes Harvested	40	20	41	59
Summer Apples Harvested	20	5	25	34
Peaches Harvested	40	37	25	26

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 22, 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 21	Mar. 1 to July 21 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	64	92	57	76	1	2147	2017	4.22	7.57	.76	23.32	-1.48
Norfolk	91	74	98	70	82	2	2327	2209	.39	4.55	-2.55	16.45	-9.25
Richmond	92	69	98	64	80	2	2408	2202	.59	6.32	-.26	21.66	-2.67
Roanoke	88	67	92	59	78	1	2387	NA	1.52	5.01	-1.33	18.22	-6.07
Wash/Dulles	91	67	95	62	79	3	2144	NA	.80	3.76	-2.72	15.08	-8.12

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**

**CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Scattered rainfall helps those in need but long term trend of severe drought continues. Hay feeding is active and the corn salvage decision is in progress.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Moisture conditions continue to deteriorate. Corn is showing a great deal of damage as corn plants begin to brown-out from the bottom up. In many areas of the county, large areas of fields are dying and uneven growth reveals varying ability of the soils in those fields to hold moisture. I estimate that the corn yield will be off by 60% or more when compared to three or four year averages. Many soybean fields are beginning to show similar characteristics as plants in lighter soils are showing major stress and areas of fields are withering and dying. Many areas of the county have seen less than an inch of rain in the last six weeks. Late planted double-crop beans are barely above the stubble they were planted in. A majority of soybean stands are still capable of recovering and making some yield, but if we have a repeat of last weeks weather where we saw virtually no rain in most of the county; soybeans will join corn with major crop losses. The situation is no better in hayfields and pastures, as livestock producers are faced with finding alternative feed sources and/or selling off a significant portion of their herds.

**SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)**

Very dry in the Spotsylvania area. Corn growth has been hurt by hot dry conditions; some fields may be a total loss. Pastures and hayfield conditions are poor. Soybeans need rain to produce blooms and pods.

**EASTERN**

**KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)**

Pastures are dried out. Corn and beans are suffering from lack of rain during the critical times. The storms on Thursday caused downed trees in several areas. Some rain came with the storms but for corn it's too little, too late.

**MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Some scattered showers again this week brought some relief to corn beans and hay fields. Some areas will make some corn, but some yields will be severely diminished. Soybeans are beginning to flower and set pods and need rain, especially MG 4 beans. Producers are very concerned about filling grain contracts. Hay fields are "crunchy and some farmers are feeding hay that was harvested this spring. Vegetables that can be irrigated are producing well. Sweet corn, cantaloupes, squash, cucumbers and tomatoes are being harvested. Farm activities this week include application of post emergent soybean herbicides, scouting fields, vegetable harvest, machinery repair, and crop irrigation. Summer educational activities and field days are beginning.

**RICHMOND (Kelly J. Liddington)**

Full feeding of hay continues. Silage chopping has started for stored feed and supplemental green chop.

**WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

Some spotty and light showers helped crops slightly this week but most corn and soybeans still under quite a bit of dry weather stress. Potential yields are at half or less of a normal crop. Corn was checked this week for corn earworm infestations and counts were much higher than normal, probably forecasting a high potential for worms in soybeans (assuming there are beans to eat). Some late planted soybeans are not coming up well. Weed control is still being applied to some fields. Vegetable harvest continued with irrigation on vegetable crops where water was available. Cattle are being fed next winter's hay as pastures have dried up.