

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

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

**WESTERN**

**AUGUSTA (Brian Jones)**

Much needed showers fell over portions of the region on Monday and Tuesday. However some areas, particularly southern and eastern Augusta County are in dire need of some rain. Corn is predictably spotty depending on the rain showers. Soybeans are improving somewhat, but still less than desirable. Wheat yields however ended up being much better than expected, with many growers reporting 90+ bushel farm averages. Unfortunately, the situation with the mill in Roanoke has many scrambling to find storage.

**CENTRAL**

**BEDFORD (Scott Baker)**

Dry conditions continued over the majority of the county this past week. Combined with high temperatures, pasture and hay field conditions are deteriorating. Thunderstorms containing hail caused some damage to apples and peaches.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Soil moisture is once again very scarce and is becoming critical as soybeans start to flower and set pods. We are in critical need of widespread, steady rain. Pastures are browning up and hayfields are recovering from the first cutting. If we do not receive adequate rain soon there may not be another good cutting. Summer vegetables are at their peak. Tomato harvest has been excellent, especially where irrigation is available. Eggplants and peppers are also being harvested in abundance. Field corn has done moderately well. Surveys reveal that some fields are excellent while others are showing poor pollination, inadequate ear fill and other signs of moisture stress. Corn earworm populations are high in the upland and central areas of the county and rather low in the Rappahannock River Valley.

**NELSON (Michael Lachance)**

Dry conditions are beginning to develop.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week Of: July 21 - 27, 2008**

**Number: 20**

**Released: July 28, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 2008**

The Commonwealth received scattered showers and hail in some areas of the state. However many areas still remained dry. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Corn and soybean crop are reported to be improving in some areas of the state. Soybean farmers are monitoring the crop for insect problems. Second hay harvest was occurring. Vegetable crops are doing well with some reports of disease pressures. The cotton crop looks good. Other farm activities included attending meetings, signing up for federal programs and applying pesticides.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 27, 2008	7	35	56	2
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	16	37	40	3
Livestock	0	2	28	59	11
Hay, Other	4	9	34	46	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	38	44	14
Corn	5	12	29	43	11
Soybeans	8	17	34	35	6
Tobacco, Flue Cured	6	10	53	28	3
Tobacco, Burley	0	1	15	70	14
Tobacco, Fire-cured	5	10	50	30	5
Peanuts	0	0	21	56	23
Cotton	0	0	36	59	5
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	5	36	59
Apples, All	0	0	20	67	13
Peaches	1	3	30	51	15
Grapes	0	1	6	81	12
Oats	1	3	23	72	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	84	77	88	83
Corn Dough	43	25	44	40
Corn Dent	7	3	14	9
Soybeans Blooming	25	18	38	39
Soybeans Setting Pods	3	NA	8	10
Peanuts Pegged	84	81	84	74
Cotton Squaring	90	85	92	93
Cotton Setting Bolls	62	40	79	63
Summer Potatoes Harvested	80	65	44	60
Summer Apples Harvested	22	19	24	35
Peaches Harvested	32	27	54	39

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF July 20 - 27, 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 26	Mar. 1 to July 26 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	64	95	55	77	2	2166	2167	.22	2.96	-4.44	17.01	-8.37
Norfolk	88	72	95	66	80	1	2534	2372	1.94	4.99	-3.05	20.39	-6.09
Richmond	92	69	98	65	80	2	2530	2360	0.99	6.84	-0.51	28.16	3.02
Roanoke	89	66	96	59	78	1	2310	NA	2.02	8.06	-1.06	20.04	-5.01
Wash/Dulles	88	66	95	58	77	1	2157	NA	.62	6.29	-0.77	28.03	4.28

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

##### FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Received rain this week. Hail storms in the northeastern end of the county have battered some crop fields. Peach yields to date have been excellent.

challenge for livestock producers. Corn is still doing fairly well because of storm showers. Stone fruits are under fairly heavy fruit rot pressures *Southwestern continued*

due to same showers. Vegetable crops are producing fairly well, but also experiencing significant disease pressures.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

One to two inches of rain in most areas has temporarily relieved the drought. Corn yield has been hurt some and some soybeans have spotty stands because of the dry weather. Tomato and potato harvests continues as well as scouting in soybeans for all sorts of problems like corn earworms, spider mites and weed pressure. Farmers are applying post emergence pesticides for weed control in many fields for the second application if needed. Some farm meetings were held and farmers have attended these. Farmers were also busy at FSA Office filing report data and signing up for federal farm program.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**  
The western part of the county continues to be dry, while eastern Scott County has received sporadic and isolated showers off and on all last week. Tomato and bean harvests are well under way with acceptable yields. Squash and zucchini took a hit last week with phytophthora devastating a one acre block. However, yield and prices continue to keep producers upbeat. Cattle producers are debating the economics of back grounding calves this year, and sheep pasture is waning.

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn yields should be good, but heat during the week hurt the crop. Rain during the week varied greatly from less than .5 inch to over 2 inches. Double crop soybeans are growing pretty well but stands are somewhat spotty due to heavy straw from the small grain crop. Deer pressure is also heavy in some soybean fields. Farmers spent the week finishing up post-emergence herbicide applications to soybeans. Producers with irrigation were busy keeping systems running.

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**  
Rain and hail hit in the north end of the County on Sunday. Several producers are trying to get their tobacco set back up. Some producers are topping tobacco. Cotton is looking good.

##### KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Conditions were getting dry. A couple of showers during the week supplied much needed moisture. Second hay harvests are occurring.

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**  
Some areas got showers through the week but most of the county is still dry. Many soybeans were replanted, some more than once. Corn yields are cut drastically. Land plaster and fungicides are being applied to peanuts. Cotton growth regulators are going out in areas that got rain.

**VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)**  
Received 2.0 - 5.5 inches of rain with some flooding occurring in areas where 4.0 - 5.0 inches of rain fell in less than 3 hours. Soybeans and corn continue to respond well to this moisture but some hay has been left on the ground during this wet period. Wet fields make it difficult to spray and harvest sweet corn and other vegetables.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

While most of the county received a single heavy rain event last week (some areas w/ damaging hail), the positive effects were short-lived unfortunately. Hayfields and pastures are suffering thus making it a