

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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



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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 26, 2009

Number: 20

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 26, 2009

Although much of the state received intermittent rainfall this past week, moisture conditions remain variable largely dependent upon the location. Producers worked around the rain to complete hay and vegetable harvests. Producers also scouted crop fields for insects and applied herbicides. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. In some areas, the corn crop is looking excellent, with early corn filling out adequately; other areas are struggling with anticipated lower yields due to prolonged dry weather. For the majority, later maturing corn still has potential to do well with some additional rain. Additional activities this week included supplementary cuttings of hay and alfalfa, bush hogging pastures and field borders, and the fall planting of tomatoes and other fall vegetables.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 26, 2009	2	25	67	6
July 19, 2009	5	38	55	2
July 12, 2009	3	34	60	3
July 5, 2009	1	23	68	8
June 28, 2009	0	12	81	7



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	9	28	56	6
Livestock	0	1	11	66	22
Hay, Other	0	11	29	50	10
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	17	57	25
Corn	5	11	27	42	15
Soybeans	4	10	32	45	9
Flue Cured Tobacco	0	3	22	65	10
Burley Tobacco	0	1	8	79	12
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	1	22	77	0
Peanuts	0	0	8	85	7
Cotton	0	0	23	74	3
Apples, All	0	0	26	74	0
Peaches	0	2	51	47	0
Grapes	0	1	11	77	11
Oats	0	2	35	63	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	83	78	83	84
Corn Dough	50	29	40	41
Corn Dent	9	0	6	8
Soybeans Blooming	34	16	24	39
Soybeans Setting Pods	2	0	3	9
Peanuts Pegged	81	71	84	79
Cotton Squaring	85	72	89	95
Cotton Setting Bolls	47	37	59	70
Summer Potatoes Harvested	75	55	78	59
Summer Apples Harvested	33	23	22	28
Peaches Harvested	40	27	31	36

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 26, 2009													
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 25	Mar 1 to July 25 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	83	60	91	52	72	-3	2130	2120	0.81	5.92	-1.38	23.33	-2.02
Norfolk	84	70	92	67	77	-2	2484	2320	0.17	7.72	-0.07	23.13	-3.15
Richmond	87	67	93	61	77	-1	2461	2309	0.07	6.61	-0.57	19.36	-5.46
Roanoke	82	62	89	56	72	-5	2263	NA	2.98	8.85	1.99	26.34	1.50
Wash/Dulles	86	64	90	56	75	-1	2159	NA	1.69	8.47	1.53	28.28	4.52

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (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>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Rains have begun to be spotty and some parts of Rockbridge are experiencing a significant dry down over the past three weeks. However, it is not critical at this point. The first hay cutting is finally completed as significant rainfall in June delayed harvest. Yields have been good with quality below average due to the late harvest. Alfalfa has fared well and most producers are completing their 3rd cutting. Leafhoppers have been a problem and infestation levels have warranted control measures. Pastures remain fairly strong where they have not been overstocked. Surface and underground water supplies have rebounded from the past several years of drought and have been adequate and strong to this point. Fall calves and yearlings are being moved into sale channels with the bulk being targeted for early August markets.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

The weather has been drier lately, but we are still getting timely rains. Pastures and hayfields are green and growing. Many people have harvested a second crop of hay with the advent of better drying conditions. The corn crop looks excellent. The early corn is filling and finishing out and later planted corn has had adequate rainfall for pollination and growth. The corn earworm survey has been completed and worm numbers are lower than average for this area and season. Farmers are still applying herbicides to late-planted soybeans, fixing fences, bush hogging pastures and field borders. Some farmers are preparing to harvest corn silage.

EASTERN

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Farmers are spraying double crop beans, bush hogging around fields, deer control on beans and blackbird control on corn in dough stage and taking needed vacations.

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

The county is in a drought. Some corn yields will be off thirty five to fifty percent depending on if the field got a rain or if it was planted late verses early. Early planted corn looks the best. Soybeans are holding but need rain badly. They can still yield fairly well if heavy rains arrive. Tomato harvest and potato harvest continues. Yields are average to good. Fall planting of tomatoes continues, as well as, field preparation for other fall crops. Scouting of soybeans for pests continues.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain is still needed in parts of area. Early corn has made and yields will be decreased by twenty to thirty percent due to dry weather. Later maturing corn still may have a chance if it could get rain now. Some soybeans are having a tough time due to dry weather. Producers are finishing up with post-emergent applications to soybeans and making plans for harvest and fall planting. Scouting begins for insects in soybeans. Vegetables look good.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

A few storms went through part of the county over the week and weekend and dropped rain. This was helpful to crops but more is needed. We are seeing some insect damage from aphids, squash borers, and stink bugs this year. Some disease pressures have been high, as well, and some trees are losing leaves. Many producers are spraying crops and irrigating as necessary.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers fell over most of our area and it was much needed. The crops look very good at this point. Herbicide applications continue on peanut, cotton and soybeans.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Mild temperatures continue to enhance crop growing conditions. The soybean crop is progressing well with adequate soil moisture. Corn could use rain, but is also headed for a good crop yield in 2009.