

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Potato harvest is winding up. This is a good year. There are some farmers planting fall crops such as snap beans and butterbeans. Farmers are actively scouting soybean crop for worms, spider mites and other pests. Farmers are requesting information on wheat seed. Some were already ordering seed for fall. Some corn companies delivering brochures and taking orders for 2009 corn seed. A few farmers are taking a short vacation. Corn needs significant rain badly. We are having a brief thunderstorm in some areas.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Farming activities included weed control in soybeans, attending Ag Field Days, irrigating if possible, praying for rain, bush hogging around fields, vacations, scaring deer out of soybeans and blackbirds out of corn fields.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Localized showers have benefited some farms, therefore those crops are progressing well. In the areas not receiving so much precipitation, pastures and hayfields are struggling. Corn planted early is growing well in most areas. Farmers are seeing significant amounts of disease problems on tomato, cucurbits and various fruit crops.

NORTHERN

MADISON (Brad Jarvis)

Severe hail storm on Saturday hit the southeastern part of Madison County that defoliated the corn crop, injured soybeans and caused a lot of tree damage. VCE is in the process of estimating the damages.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Brian Jones)

Dry weather during the week plagued parts of Augusta County, south and east particularly. Corn has been exhibiting drought stress and those who can irrigate have been. Soybeans have improved somewhat, where stands were established. The northwestern part of the county on into Rockingham and the northern Valley are very good.

BOTETOURT (Cassie Digroll)

Apple and peach growers within the county are finding more damage as a result of last week's storms.

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Evening temperatures higher than average. Rain fall for the week was 0.21 inches.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Of: July 28 – August 3, 2008

Number: 21

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 3, 2008

Virginia experienced diverse weather conditions this week. Isolated areas received much needed rainfall. However, most of the State continued to suffer with dry conditions brought on by high temperatures and hot winds. Days suitable for field work were 6.0. Corn conditions worsened under the heat stress, except for the isolated areas that received rain. In these areas corn conditions improved. Several cattlemen are selling off calves earlier than normal due to poor pastures and costly feed. In some areas, cattlemen are lightly supplementing their cattle to compensate for deteriorating pastures. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting peaches and apples, planting fall vegetable crops, scouting for insect pressure, and irrigating where possible.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 3, 2008	15	35	49	1
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	6	20	37	33	4
Livestock	0	4	27	57	12
Hay, Other	3	11	36	46	4
Hay, Alfalfa	1	5	33	41	20
Corn	9	17	28	30	16
Soybeans	12	16	36	31	5
Tobacco, Flue Cured	3	11	40	32	14
Tobacco, Burley	0	5	20	60	15
Tobacco, Fire-cured	1	20	20	40	19
Peanuts	0	6	20	56	18
Cotton	0	9	37	49	5
Apples, All	0	0	21	67	12
Peaches	1	2	37	51	9
Grapes	0	1	8	76	15
Oats	1	3	27	68	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	91	84	93	90
Corn Dough	55	43	57	53
Corn Dent	17	7	27	18
Soybeans Blooming	49	25	63	59
Soybeans Setting Pods	18	3	30	21
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	15	NA	18	13
Peanuts Pegged	90	84	87	84
Cotton Squaring	93	90	85	98
Cotton Setting Bolls	71	62	92	80
Summer Potatoes Harvested	95	80	70	80
Summer Apples Harvested	30	22	54	52
Peaches Harvested	44	32	67	54

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF July 27- August 2, 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 Aug 2	Mar. 1 to Aug 2 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	91	66	96	61	79	4	2350	2326	0.01	2.97	-5.51	17.03	-9.57
Norfolk	90	73	93	70	82	3	2742	2553	0.75	5.74	-3.51	21.14	-6.67
Richmond	93	72	96	69	83	5	2737	2531	0.85	7.70	-0.85	29.02	2.88
Roanoke	88	68	93	61	78	2	2499	NA	0.26	8.32	0.40	20.30	-5.72
Wash/Dulles	89	68	93	59	79	3	2347	NA	0.19	6.49	-1.32	28.23	3.47

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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CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Spotty rain showers have brought relief to some areas, but the moisture gained is quickly lost under continuous high temperatures and hot winds. Some producers are supplementing pastures with hay. Stream flow continues to decline. Producers have started to sell off calves early.

BEDFORD (Scott Baker)

Dry conditions persisted last week. Some livestock producers are expressing concerns about declining water availability. Also, limited supplemental feeding has occurred due to deteriorating pasture situation.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Corn silage is being harvested as corn fields dry down very quickly. Some corn fields for grain look very good and some show signs of poor pollination and poor ear fill. Extremely variable rains produced good fields across the road from fields that show signs of major moisture stress. Soybeans are beginning to flower and start pods. We need some good generalized rains to keep the flowers on the plants and insure good pod fill. The county has not experienced anything but spotty relatively small thunder storms for almost four weeks. Many pastures and hayfields are browning out and soybeans are showing signs of wilting in mid-afternoon sun.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Many vegetables are making it to local farmer markets and they are being consumed. Many folks are calling extension offices to get information on canning and freezing. Early in the week damage from the Sunday thunderstorm, with hail and high winds were assessed in the northeast corner of the county. Tobacco, corn, soybeans were damaged the most. The high temperatures are taking a toll on crops, livestock and producers. Some areas of the county got rain on Thursday afternoon, with Friday once again being hot.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Farmers are applying herbicide applications on cotton and soybeans. Some application of fungicide was applied on peanuts. The county experienced spotty showers for the week. Some very isolated places received about 2 inches. The majority of the county needs a good soaking rain.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We received frequent summer showers this week which helped to alleviate the lack of rain we experienced early on. Corn crop is limited by now. Soybean crop has been hurt by both dry soils and wet soils, depending if you were in an area which had to be replanted because of drought or conversely received 12+ inches rain in July, which drowned plants in the field. Some acres of alfalfa spoiled because of unexpected rain that fell after it was cut. There is always a challenge with summer humidity and thunderstorms. Summer produce is readily available now. No major pest causing concerns at this time. Crop scouts are now busy looking for insect and disease problems we expect to see as conditions become favorable for those pests.