

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

There were several operations in the county that were damaged in result of last week storm. This has been spotty and varied but has been tough on tobacco producers.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Some tobacco received hail and wind damage early in the week. Some blue mold in tobacco is still active in wet areas.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent rains have improved crop conditions. Late corn, cotton, peanuts, and soybeans are all progressing well. Growers are scouting for diseases and insects, with fungicide sprays going out on peanuts.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers continue to move through out the county with heavy rainfall in some areas this week. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is underway. Herbicide applications continue on soybean and peanut. Some insecticides treatments have gone out on cotton for plant/stink bug. Fungicides applications on peanut for diseases are increasing.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn will probably yield less than a bumper crop this year. Less than previously expected, but still a good crop. Some ears are not filled out as well as anticipated. All crops progressing very well and expect an early beginning of corn picking season. No worm problems in soybeans reported yet.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 2, 2009

Number: 21

Released: August 3, 2009

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2, 2009

The majority of the state experienced some much needed rain that helped improve crop conditions. There were reports of cooler than normal temperatures in some counties. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. The corn crop looks very good and appears to have better than normal yield potential. Soybeans are emerging late but are progressing well. In some counties, the tobacco crop was more sensitive to the heavy rain fall and winds, which has hindered its condition and delayed its harvest. Delays on fruit and vegetable maturing were attributed to cooler than normal temperatures in parts of the state. Other farming activities included farmers scouting for corn earworms on soybeans, farmers attending field days and summer production meetings, and livestock producers preparing to cut silage.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 2, 2009	3	15	69	13
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



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	6	24	59	10
Livestock	1	2	12	67	18
Hay, Other	1	11	27	52	9
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	13	61	24
Corn	2	4	21	52	21
Soybeans	1	4	24	55	16
Flue Cured Tobacco	3	5	27	55	10
Burley Tobacco	0	2	7	82	9
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	1	12	87	0
Peanuts	0	2	9	80	9
Cotton	0	2	26	64	8
Apples, All	0	0	23	73	4
Peaches	0	4	41	54	1
Grapes	0	1	7	87	5
Oats	0	3	30	67	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	89	83	90	91
Corn Dough	66	50	53	54
Corn Dent	23	9	16	18
Corn Silage Harvested	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soybeans Blooming	51	34	46	58
Soybeans Setting Pods	18	2	16	23
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	16	N/A	14	13
Peanuts Pegged	85	81	89	88
Cotton Squaring	90	85	93	98
Cotton Setting Bolls	58	47	70	83
Summer Potatoes Harvested	79	75	93	79
Summer Apples Harvested	41	33	29	43
Peaches Harvested	44	40	42	49

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2, 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 August 1	Mar 1 to August 1 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	66	90	62	76	1	2309	2281	0.89	6.82	-1.49	24.23	-2.10
Norfolk	92	73	95	70	83	4	2692	2501	0.61	8.33	-0.82	23.74	-3.86
Richmond	91	71	97	69	81	3	2663	2481	1.15	7.76	-0.58	20.52	-5.45
Roanoke	83	67	87	65	75	-1	2439	NA	1.53	10.38	2.58	27.87	2.07
Wash/Dulles	88	70	91	67	79	3	2355	NA	0.45	8.92	1.17	28.72	4.18

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

CLARKE (Jake Grove)

Thunderstorms have brought scattered showers across the area, relieving much of the dry conditions that were beginning to show.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Row crops, forages, and pastures have continued to benefit from the rain. We have not seen a summer in regard to moisture like this for at least ten years. Some of the harvests of wheat, oats, and multiple hay cutting have been delayed due to the rain.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The area received beneficial rainfall during the week, but amounts varied from less than half of an inch to over two inches. Some areas are relatively wet, while soil moisture remains somewhat low in some areas. Late planted corn will benefit from recent rains, and soybean growth has improved greatly with recent rains. Pasture and hay growth are good for the most part. Farmers continued to make herbicide applications to double crop soybeans and getting equipment ready for harvest. August field days start next week and will continue throughout August.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

A good amount of rain has fallen across the area this week and has positioned soybeans to do well. Most corn is in good shape but some areas are hurt as much as fifty percent. Field scouting and post emerge soybean herbicide applications continue. Vegetables are looking good.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

The county has not received as much rain as other areas to the north and east of the state. Corn still looks excellent but late-planted soybeans are beginning to show signs of stress. Farmers are scouting for corn earworms on soybeans, which are in the early pod stage and susceptible to damage. Earworm infestations have been light at this point in the season. Livestock producers are preparing to cut silage and farmers are attending field days and summer production meetings.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Temperatures are cooler than normal. The above average rainfall is causing fruit and vegetable ripening delays and increased disease problems. A late blight of tomatoes has been confirmed in the county a week ago. Growers are trying to combat the problem with fungicides, but are having a difficult time doing so with the frequent showers and storms. Ornamental crops are also experiencing increased disease occurrences.

PULASKI (Scott Terrell)

Wet weather conditions all week has nearly brought farming activities to a stand still.

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

Although doing the week there were few showers, there are some locations in the county that haven't had a drop of rain in over a month. Some locations experienced less than one inch in close to two months.

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Tobacco producers are continuing to top and pull. The first pulling is almost complete. Hot and dry weather conditions continue to plague the county, with only spotty showers occurring. Soybeans (if planted in a timely manner) are looking good. Pasture and hay land is declining quickly and will need rain to turn around for the fall.

CENTRAL