

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Wythe Morris)**

Increased temperatures promise to erase the moisture gains from the previous showers in late July.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Pastures have bounced back with recent rains, but hay inventory is low. Corn is pollinating now, and has not been stressed the entire season. Yearling cattle and last fall's calf crop have started moving to market.

**NORTHERN**

**ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)**

Rockingham County is still suffering from a huge lack of precipitation, as evidenced county-wide by the stressed corn crop and visibly dry pastures and hay stands .

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Timely thunder showers are keeping forages green. Hot, sunny days are drying out soils quickly; so the .5 to 1 inch weekly showers are a welcomed relief. First and second cutting of hay is being harvested. Some yearling cattle are beginning to move to market with weight gains near normal.



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**WEATHER  
&  
CROPS**



**Week of: July 30 – Aug. 5, 2007**

**Number: 22**

**Released: August 6, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 5, 2007**

Spotty storms across the state brought much needed precipitation to some areas. Days suitable for work were 6.3. Topsoil moisture was generally short. Pastures and hayfield conditions are starting to improve due to last week's rain but soil conditions are beginning to become dry again. Corn is continuing to twist and show stress. Livestock producers are beginning to market yearling cattle. Early soybeans are continuing to grow despite the dry conditions. Double cropped soybeans are appearing to have stunted growth due to the extreme heat and lack of moisture. Tomato harvesting continues while some producers are reporting completion. Potato yields have been reported as good. Vegetable producers are irrigating crops and harvesting musk melons, peppers, squash, and cantaloupes. Other activities this week include spraying herbicides on soybeans, scouting soybeans for insects and disease, preparing combines for the corn harvest, and planting fall and winter crops.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 5, 2007	28	42	29	1
July 29, 2007	28	39	31	2
July 22, 2007	47	35	18	0
July 15, 2007	45	35	20	0
July 8, 2007	41	39	20	0



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**The Census Is Coming!**

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	30	35	24	11	0
Livestock	2	10	28	52	8
Other Hay	18	38	22	21	1
Alfalfa Hay	7	40	25	25	3
Corn	22	41	24	12	1
Soybeans	24	38	32	6	0
Flue-Cured Tobacco	3	12	47	36	2
Burley Tobacco	0	29	47	23	1
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco	3	14	60	23	0
Peanuts	1	25	48	26	0
Cotton	10	28	52	10	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	20	50	30
All Apples	5	11	31	53	0
Grapes	0	15	51	33	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	95	89	92	91
Corn Dough	60	48	49	58
Corn Dent	30	18	26	22
Soybeans Blooming	73	39	67	62
Soybeans Setting Pods	38	9	25	25
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	19	17*	13	12
Peanuts Pegged	88	85	84	86
Cotton Squaring	100	94	100	98
Cotton Setting Bolls	94	87	79	85
Cotton Bolls Opening	7	NA	3	5
Summer Potatoes Harvested	80	45	91	89
Summer Apples Harvested	65	25	64	59
Peaches Harvested	70	59	57	57

\* Revised

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 5, 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 Aug. 4	Mar. 1 to Aug. 4 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	65	92	64	77	2	2478	2354	1.04	10.25	1.57	26.01	-0.80
Norfolk	88	72	93	70	80	1	2721	2584	1.58	8.65	-0.96	20.54	-7.59
Richmond	92	70	95	68	81	3	2787	2560	.31	6.91	-1.83	22.26	-4.24
Roanoke	90	68	94	66	79	3	2735	NA	.70	6.36	-1.79	19.58	-6.52
Wash/Dulles	93	69	98	64	81	5	2519	NA	.63	4.68	-3.38	15.99	-8.99

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

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Good rains over the previous weekend gave way to another very dry week. Pastures and hayfields started to green up from last week's rain, but soil conditions are drying off again. More rain is needed. Corn is beyond help with about 60-80% of the crop lost depending on where you are located in the county. Some small areas of the county will see near average yields, but corn will take a major loss county-wide. Soybeans are still capable of producing near average yields (25-30 bushels) but we must get into a rain pattern that improves soil moisture significantly. So far this season this has not happened. Rain has been "hit-or-miss". There has been no regular pattern of rainfall. Vegetable farmers are irrigating heavily (as is anyone who can irrigate crops) and harvesting musk melons, tomatoes, peppers, squash and cantaloupes.

**KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)**

Spotty storms brought some moisture but not enough. Beans in areas with more rain are growing but varies across the county. Some pastures in areas with more rain are improving slightly. Conditions overall are still dry.

**NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)**

Late weekend rain improved soil moisture over much of the area, while other areas remained dry. Rains from the previous week helped pastures turn from brown to green and enabled soybeans to develop. Much of the corn crop will be ready to harvest by mid-August, and farmers are getting their combines ready. Other activities included spraying herbicides on soybeans and scouting soybeans for insects. Farmers have also been working closely with their crop insurance agents to prepare for the many claims that will be submitted on this year's corn crop.

**EASTERN**

**ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

The last two weeks of high temperatures and no rainfall, added to the fact that we were in a drought at the critical times for corn, particularly grain filling, have devastated the corn crop. Rain at this point will help the corn crop very little. Yields have been affected dramatically. In a few areas where thunderstorms hit the yield may be normal, but in most fields yields will be at, near, or below disaster levels. The soybean crop which is mostly double cropped behind wheat is in the same situation. Fields show sporadic growth but many fields show only a height not above the wheat straw. Rain could still make a significant difference on this crop. At this point farmers are worried about having over contracted on corn. Tomato picking continues with some fields winding up. Potato yields have been good but movement is slow at the market at times. Growers would have liked to have had higher prices for both of these crops. Significant, heavy rains are needed in coming weeks or fall crops will be affected including wheat and barley as related to land preparation and planting and germination. Working in the hot, dry conditions has made fieldwork in many cases miserable and the dust generated unhealthy to farmers.