

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Spotty rain fell this week bringing some relief to the extremely hot dry conditions. Soil moisture conditions now need a major rain event to recharge. Corn will be less than normal but not at disaster levels. Double cropped soybeans are not putting on much leaf area. Stands are poor to fair. Summertime heat has been difficult on livestock and farmers working this week.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

We have some areas that missed recent showers and remain very dry. Dry conditions, coupled with high temperatures in the 90's to over 100, causing crops to go dormant. Corn and cotton in these areas are severely cut. Peanuts and soybeans range from poor to fair. In areas with showers growers are applying fungicides and insecticides to peanuts cotton and soybeans.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Drought and extreme high temperatures continue to take their toll on all crops. Corn is at a very critical stage and yields are negatively affected each day this weather continues. Pasture growth is non existent and many are feeding livestock.

Producers are beginning to contemplate selling entire or partial dispersal of their cowherds. At this point it appears it will be a long winter (Sept. - April) if substantial rains don't begin to fall soon. Rockbridge County will be seeking disaster recognition this week following the Board of Supervisors meeting.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Conditions continued to deteriorate with record heat and no rainfall until Thursday night. Variable rates of precipitation fell ranging from .25 to 2.0 inches. Additional moisture will determine the outcome. The hay shortage is becoming more acute as feeding uses up the limited supply. Sources are needed from outside the area. Early corn chopping salvages fodder, involuntary culling of cattle and early selling of light weight calves reduce demands on stored feed.

ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)

Rockingham County continues to be very dry, with the northeast and north central areas experiencing the greatest deficit. Without supplemental water, some producers will see crop and pasture yield reductions.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: Aug. 6 – Aug. 12, 2007

Number: 23

Released: Aug. 13, 2007

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 12, 2007

Much of the Commonwealth remained hot and dry this week with high temperatures in most areas. Pasture and hayfield conditions continued to deteriorate due to the blistering temperatures. Corn in many areas has begun to dry down. Soybeans are entering a stage where precipitation is critical. Recent spotty showers have helped significantly but the rain needs to continue consistently to ensure average yields. Cotton conditions have diminished as well because of the extreme heat. Vegetable producers continue to irrigate and are harvesting watermelons, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and other summer vegetables. Other activities this week include spraying insecticides and fungicides on crops, preparing to plant fall greens, machine repair, scouting fields, attending field days, and checking for corn moisture and dry down.



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TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 12, 2007	27	46	27	0
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

The Census Is Coming!

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	32	37	26	5	0
Livestock	1	9	35	47	8
Other Hay	28	39	22	11	0
Alfalfa Hay	11	34	31	22	2
Corn	21	41	28	9	1
Soybeans	18	38	30	14	0
Flue-Cured Tobacco	5	21	40	29	5
Burley Tobacco	0	22	49	23	6
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco	2	29	55	13	1
Peanuts	0	28	52	20	0
Cotton	5	43	47	5	0
All Apples	7	15	34	44	0
Grapes	1	9	45	44	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	75	60	70	72
Corn Dent	50	30	44	39
Corn Mature	9	NA	NA	NA
Soybeans Blooming	80	73	78	77
Soybeans Setting Pods	50	38	50	50
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	20	19	17	18
Peanuts Pegged	90	88	95	93
Cotton Setting Bolls	95	94	96	95
Cotton Bolls Opening	15	7	6	15
Summer Potatoes Harvested	82	80	96	95
Summer Apples Harvested	70	65	74	70
Peaches Harvested	74	70	81	70

* Revised

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 12, 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. 11	Mar. 1 to Aug. 11 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	94	71	99	69	82	7	2680	2527	0.00	10.25	0.85	26.00	-1.36
Norfolk	92	75	100	66	83	5	2931	2776	0.76	9.40	-1.28	21.30	-7.87
Richmond	96	73	104	66	85	8	2997	2744	1.70	8.61	-1.17	23.95	-3.57
Roanoke	96	75	101	72	85	9	2949	NA	0.00	5.88	-3.16	19.10	-7.80
Wash/Dulles	95	73	101	67	84	9	2727	NA	0.29	4.96	-3.89	16.28	-9.56

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

CAMPBELL (Scott Reiter)

Rainfall has been scattered over the last 2 weeks. The range has been 0.5 inch to 5+ inches. Crop insurance adjusters have assessed some corn at 0-20 bushels per acre and soybeans at 8 bushels per acre. Beef cattle producers are looking for hay or purchasing grain to feed their herds. It is a bleak picture looking at the winter feeding period with a short hay crop and no pasture at the present time. Some farms have been feeding hay for 6 weeks.

AMHERST (William Seay)

Dry conditions continue. Stream flow is diminishing with some streams beginning to puddle. Some livestock producers are supplementing pastures with hay. Others have turned livestock into hay fields that are fenced.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Scattered showers added almost an inch of rain to many areas of the county. This was too late for corn, but soybeans picked up some much needed moisture. However, high temperatures have caused soybean plants to shed many flowers, hopefully they will be able to recover and yield well. Pastures and hayfields have greened up slightly. There are still large areas of poor growth and browned out hayfields. We will be lucky to get another cutting of hay this year. Soybean farmers are spraying fungicides and beginning to scout for corn earworm. Vegetable farmers continue to irrigate and are harvesting watermelons, squash, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other summer vegetables. Pumpkins are forming up for harvest in the fall, as are winter squash. Farmers are preparing to plant fall greens.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Thunderstorms in spots have helped soybean growth dramatically in the last few days. There is still hope for a decent crop. Corn is drying down and headed toward an early and short harvest. Yield will be off 25 to 85 percent depending on location. Some potatoes still not harvested due to no market. This has not been a good year for potato, tomato and corn growers to date.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Several showers have fallen this week and have made grass greener. Rain is too late for corn and some early beans. Double crop soybeans have really benefitted. They have grown above the straw and look very good in most fields. Corn earworm moth numbers are increasing drastically this week. Producers will be scouting and making spray decisions by end of next week. Vegetable harvest continues with cantaloupes, watermelons, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers doing quite well in places with irrigation. On farm activities this week include, machinery repair, scouting, field days, trying to stay cool, seed and supply purchases for fall, and checking corn moisture and dry down.

SOUTHWESTERN

WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

The weather is very hot and is drying things out again.

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

The week has been dry with temperatures in the low 90's.