

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Dry conditions have again pushed corn silage harvest earlier than usual this year. Reports on quality of harvested silage so far indicate only marginal quality, with lower yields than usual and small ears. Some parts of the county received 0.1 - 0.2 inches of rain Wednesday, but drought conditions still persist.

LUNENBURG (Katie Baker)

A resolution was passed last week to declare Lunenburg County a drought disaster area due to the prolonged drought conditions, which are affecting all crops.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Most of the county got about 1-1.5 inches of rain on Sunday (8/10/08). This really helped offset the drought, but more is needed to keep crops growing. Corn is mostly mature and some late planted soybeans died after emergence so rain was too late for them. We still need more rain to help cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and pasture.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Growers were scouting for stink bug infest in crops. Some herbicide was applied. On Friday, parts of the county received .4 to .5 inches of rain. We need more rain and hope that rains from the hurricane will make it here.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn and soybeans appear to be below last year's yield for Chesapeake. Soil moisture is low once again. Farmers are selecting wheat varieties for the fall planting.

National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: August 11- 17, 2008

Number: 23

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17, 2008

Spotty showers brought some relief to parts of the Commonwealth. Up to 1 ½ inches of rain was recorded in at least one county. However, most of the Commonwealth continues to suffer from dry conditions. Days suitable for field work were 6.5. Dry weather contributed to the corn for silage harvest to be ahead of normal. However, corn silage yields were down. Producers also expected corn for grain yield to be below normal. The soybean crop is behind schedule for this time of year; only 42 percent of the soybean crop is setting pods, down 21 percent from the 5 year average. Other farming activities included harvesting tobacco, feeding livestock, picking tomatoes, and scouting for insect pressure.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 17, 2008	28	42	30	0
August 10, 2008	17	43	40	0
August 3, 2008	15	35	49	1
July 27, 2008	7	35	56	2
July 20, 2008	9	34	54	3

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	13	24	41	20	2
Livestock	1	5	24	61	9
Hay, Other	9	19	49	20	3
Hay, Alfalfa	2	9	35	43	11
Corn	9	17	28	29	17
Soybeans	9	15	37	31	8
Tobacco, Flue-cured	10	22	40	24	4
Tobacco, Burley	0	6	19	60	15
Tobacco, Fire-cured	0	40	25	30	5
Peanuts	0	10	25	50	15
Cotton	0	10	41	45	4
Apples, All	0	1	20	71	8
Grapes	0	1	6	83	10
Oats	0	3	45	52	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	80	75	78	78
Corn Dent	58	38	57	47
Corn Mature	22	3	15	13
Corn Silage Harvested	26	13	24	20
Soybeans Blooming	72	65	83	85
Soybeans Setting Pods	42	28	56	63
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	25	17	28	26
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	4	2	7	5
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured Harvested	30	9	NA	NA
Cotton Setting Bolls	95	93	98	96
Cotton Bolls Opening	8	0	26	23
Summer Apples Harvested	43	39	81	79
Peaches Harvested	69	59	83	79
Oats for Grain Harvested	68	NA	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF August 10 - 16, 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 16	Mar. 1 to Aug 16 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	84	57	88	49	71	-3	2667	2667	0.00	2.97	-6.92	17.02	-10.88
Norfolk	84	68	87	65	76	-2	3125	2932	0.64	6.38	-5.22	21.78	-8.08
Richmond	87	63	90	61	75	-2	3097	2896	0.10	7.79	-2.73	29.11	0.85
Roanoke	84	61	87	54	72	-3	2833	NA	0.52	8.91	-0.67	20.89	-6.59
Wash/Dulles	84	59	87	56	71	-4	2671	NA	1.15	7.64	-1.79	29.38	3.15

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

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Corn silage harvest has begun and will pick up as the rate of dry down increases. Stream flow diminished, pasture growth decreasing daily, and late beans were at a near stand still.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Conditions are very dry. Soybeans are really suffering from lack of moisture. Rain in the next week is critical for this crop. Pastures are drying out.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions continue to deteriorate. Pasture and hay land has "browned out". Soybeans are showing daily stress. Plants are starting to drop flowers. Most of the corn silage crop has been harvested due to the very fast dry down. Field corn is waiting to be harvested for grain. Yields will probably be down 20-35% due to dry conditions from June through August. Producers with irrigation are irrigating extensively: mainly soybeans and vegetable crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Some showers gave very little relief. Corn is mostly made and we are looking at a below average crop county wide. Corn harvest will begin next week with yields that should be in the 85-100 bushel range. Soybeans still have a lot of potential but need showers to make much of a crop. Early beans are blooming and setting pods. Double crop beans are not as critical but could be in a week or two. Folks are scouting for corn earworm and watching moth catches. Levels of moths have leveled off which could signal that the flight may be delayed and spray decisions may also be delayed. Folks are gathering prices for next year's inputs. Prices continue to rise.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

General conditions have turned very dry. Adverse impact on soybean crop is expected.

SOUTHWESTERN

FLOYD (Jon Vest)

With continued dry conditions, some cattle producers have started feeding hay.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Scattered thunder storms continue to replenish moisture in various areas of the county. Corn is about done. Yield will be off 20 to 25 percent in some areas. The soybean crop looks good but crop is behind wheat and will be very late. Hopefully, we will have a late frost. Tomato harvest continues. Scouting is active in soybeans, lima beans and snap bean fields. Some farmers are taking a short vacation, attending field days, working on equipment and making plans for fall planting of wheat.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Some livestock producers are beginning to feed hay due to poor pasture conditions as a result of low precipitation. All crops (grains, vegetables, fruits) beginning to suffer as a result of drought.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Scattered rains have helped tremendously with pastures, but hay land is still in a stand still. I expect 40 percent reduction in the second cutting of hay. Most vegetable picking is still strong, with significant damage from deer feeding on bell peppers. Heavier cattle are still selling well, pleasing most stocker producers.