

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CLARKE COUNTY (Jacob Stegner):

Pasture conditions continue to deteriorate. The number of producers feeding hay is increasing. Corn is still doing fine but soybeans are suffering somewhat.

CULPEPER COUNTY (Carl Stafford):

Surface soil moisture levels are deteriorating rapidly, returning to early summer drought conditions here in mid-August.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Hot, dry weather is taking its toll on pastures and hay meadows. Producers are moving cows to hay meadows due to a lack of pasture. Livestock water is an issue or a concern for some producers.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

The Southern part of County is extremely dry. Need for substantial rainfall is very critical. Some folks are beginning to feed livestock to some degree. The corn crop is suffering as ear fill is minimal due to hot weather and very low soil moisture. Pastures are falling back very quickly.

APPOMATTOX COUNTY (Eric Eberly):

Corn planted for silage is drying quickly requiring accelerated harvesting. Full season soybeans have produced a good crop overall with leaves starting to drop. Double cropped soybeans are drought stressed but with rain should make an acceptable yield. Pastures in general are in poor condition but are still providing enough forage for limited grazing.

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

Only trace amounts of rain were received this week. Pastures continue to deteriorate with a majority of beef cattle herds already feeding a limited hay supply. The prospects for fall hay and grazing look bleak at this point as entire fields have

turned brown. Tobacco harvest is underway; irrigation cannot keep up with the tobacco water needs and fuel bills are deeply reducing profits. All crops will have reduced yields. Some soybeans have been observed wilting for 3 weeks straight now.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

In this past week folks have noticed fly speck on apples, and some fruit rots on pear, apples, and grapes. Some crops are showing the need for some water. A slight shower this week helped, but it was little compared to areas north of us. Summer annual hay is being cut. Silage choppers are being tuned up and chopping will begin next week in a few areas. Several farm sales are pending, such as equipment auctions and real estate.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Timely rains came this week throughout most of the county. Producers are scouting for corn earworm and diseases in soybeans. Fall tomato picking will start in about a week. The corn crop will be average or above, but was hurt somewhat by 100 plus degree temperatures a few weeks ago. Potato yields were pretty good. Farmers are attending meetings, working on equipment and a few taking a short vacation.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Showers were spotty this week as some areas got welcomed rain that will help soybeans, pastures, hay and vegetables. Some full season beans are hurt in yield by 25-30%. In some dryer areas, double crop beans are beginning to bloom and they are only about a foot tall. Corn still looks good but is drying down rapidly. Producers are preparing for harvest, repairing equipment, and continuing farm spruce up.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: Aug 14-Aug 20, 2006

Number: 24

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 2006

The Commonwealth experienced another warm, dry week. Days suitable for field work were 6.4. Precipitation levels remained below normal for most areas with a state average of .61 inches. Temperatures were above normal this week. The average high for the state was 89 degrees. The heat, as well as dry conditions, has begun to take a toll on many crops and livestock. Soil moisture levels are deteriorating along with pasture conditions. Adequate water for livestock has become a concern for many farmers. Overall, the corn crop looks good, but is beginning to suffer from the lack of soil moisture. Corn planted for silage is drying quickly, requiring farmers to speed up harvesting efforts. In some areas, corn is slightly behind in development and in need of rain. Full season soybeans continue to thrive, while double-cropped beans are showing signs of stress. A few areas have reported corn earworm damage in soybeans, and producers will continue to monitor for insect problems in the days to come. The quality of the tomato and bell pepper crops appear to be good at this time. Fall tomato harvest is expected to begin in the next few weeks. Tobacco harvest is underway and most of the crop was reported to be in fair to good condition. Other farm activities this week included spraying herbicides, scouting for insect damage, preparing for fall harvest, repairing equipment, and attending commodity meetings and field days.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 23, 2006	2	18	73	7
July 30, 2006	4	27	66	3
August 6, 2006	7	37	56	0
August 13, 2006	11	35	53	1
August 20, 2006	21	35	43	1

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	89	53	72	-2	0.01	-0.69	1
Warrenton	88	62	75	2	0.00	-0.84	0
Winchester 7 SE	92	49	73	1	0.00	-0.77	0
Dale Enterprises	90	51	71	-2	0.01	-0.80	1
WESTERN							
Glasgow	90	59	74	1	0.96	0.26	3
Roanoke AP	88	60	76	2	0.20	-0.72	2
Waynesboro	88	54	72	2	0.06	-0.78	1
Staunton AG	86	56	72	2	0.01	-0.83	1
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	90	56	75	0	0.07	-0.98	1
Piedmont Res ST	90	62	76	3	0.00	-0.97	0
Bremo Bluff	93	55	77	3	1.43	0.45	1
Richmond AP	91	63	79	3	2.17	1.19	1
EASTERN							
Eastville	90	66	79	3	4.95	4.11	1
Wallops Island	87	66	77	0	0.25	-0.52	2
Williamsburg	92	65	79	3	0.59	-0.46	2
Keysville	89	58	75	1	0.20	-0.71	1
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	84	55	70	0	0.96	0.12	2
Wytheville	85	52	69	-2	0.68	-0.09	1
Saltville	87	56	72	3	1.93	1.06	2
Richlands	86	56	71	6	0.95	0.08	2
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	87	60	74	1	0.43	-0.62	2
Danville AG	91	60	77	1	0.00	-0.84	0
Chatham	88	54	73	0	0.00	-0.84	0
Martinsville	87	55	73	-2	0.34	-0.53	1
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	95	64	80	3	0.27	-0.81	1
Oceana	91	62	79	2	0.16	-1.11	2
Emporia	91	59	78	3	0.37	-0.68	1
Newport News	94	67	80	4	0.00	-1.08	0

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of August 14-August 20, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	14	23	37	21	5
Livestock	2	11	27	49	11
Other Hay	12	27	33	23	5
Alfalfa Hay	6	21	29	35	9
Corn	2	7	32	44	15
Soybeans	2	11	44	34	9
Flue-cured Tobacco	2	19	54	23	2
Burley Tobacco	0	1	14	57	28
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	4	23	47	26	0
Peanuts	0	1	23	51	25
Cotton	0	7	18	35	40
All Apples	0	2	67	31	0
Grapes	0	2	20	72	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	98	94	99	98
Corn Dough	78	73	82	81
Corn Dent	51	47	42	53
Corn Mature	24	17	13	22
Corn Silage Harvested	25	21	29	19
Soybeans Blooming	93	80	91	86
Soybeans Setting Pods	69	54	79	64
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	25	17	23	29
Burley Tobacco Harvested	6	1	6	8
Peanuts Pegged	100	97	100	99
Cotton Setting Bolls	100	99	100	98
Cotton Bolls Opening	20	6	43	24
Summer Apples Harvested	99	75	64	85
Peaches Harvested	91	84	72	80