

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

SOUTHEASTERN

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

A light rain of less than one inch helped soybeans this week. Need much more rain to make a good crop. Vegetable farmers began planting fall crops, such as collards.

EASTERN

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Some spotty showers across the area this week helped soil moisture conditions, soybeans, vegetables and ornamental crops. Worm problems in soybeans are imminent and farmers are checking fields. Vegetable harvest continues and these rains should really help fall crops that are being planted now. Pastures and hay fields are recovering at least slightly. Cattle farmers are continuing to feed hay.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

We experienced another week with very little scattered rains. Most tobacco producers have finished the first pulling. Soybeans are not blooming and the few that are setting pods are not filling them out like they should. Most corn is stunted and is not producing ears. Pasture and hay land continues to

decline, with producers feeding winter hay supplies and purchasing supplemental feed for livestock.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Showers continue to be very spotty with very low amounts of rain. Excessive heat has continued to diminish what forages are available. Corn silage harvest is in full swing, approximately 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Corn plants are beginning to dry down very rapidly to where harvest is not keeping up. Silage quality is beginning to be compromised due to less moisture in the plants themselves. Livestock feeding continues to escalate as well as livestock being sold off of farms. The soybean crop is virtually lost.

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Small amounts of scattered rain helped pastures, hay, and later planted crops. Lost production will not be recovered. Late summer and fall growth are our next opportunity to make up for an extreme shortage of forage. Row crops will make little change even with added rain.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: Aug. 13 – Aug. 19, 2007

Number: 24

Released: Aug. 20, 2007

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 19, 2007

Scattered storms swept across the Commonwealth this week with temperatures still remaining high. Showers continued to be very spotty with variable amounts of precipitation. Livestock farmers are still feeding hay, which has caused much apprehension about winter stocks. For this reason, many cattle farmers have begun to market their cattle early. In areas that remain dry, excessive heat continues to diminish what forages are available. It has been reported that water sources are beginning to dry and livestock producers are having to transport water in from other locations. Corn silage harvest is in full swing and is approximately 2 weeks ahead of schedule in some areas. Corn plants are beginning to dry down very rapidly to where harvest is not keeping up. Producers are also expected to begin the grain corn harvest soon. Soybeans are showing stress at a critical point when plants should be blooming and setting pods. Hot and dry weather conditions are beginning to cause concern about potential yields among producers. Hot and dry conditions also continue to stress cotton and peanuts. Vegetable harvest continues and the recent rains should help fall crops that are now being planted. Other activities this week include planting fall crops, scouting for insects, and equipment repair.



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Address Service Requested

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| August 19, 2007 | 31 | 46 | 20 | 3 |
| 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 |

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The Census Is Coming!

| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pastures | 31 | 40 | 25 | 4 | 0 |
| Livestock | 2 | 14 | 33 | 42 | 9 |
| Other Hay | 25 | 42 | 26 | 7 | 0 |
| Alfalfa Hay | 15 | 32 | 33 | 18 | 2 |
| Corn | 23 | 38 | 28 | 10 | 1 |
| Soybeans | 21 | 37 | 33 | 9 | 0 |
| Flue-Cured Tobacco | 4 | 23 | 43 | 30 | 0 |
| Burley Tobacco | 0 | 24 | 47 | 20 | 9 |
| Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco | 0 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 0 |
| Peanuts | 1 | 41 | 45 | 13 | 0 |
| Cotton | 9 | 45 | 44 | 2 | 0 |
| All Apples | 19 | 16 | 34 | 31 | 0 |
| Grapes | 0 | 13 | 36 | 50 | 1 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Dough | 79 | 75 | 77 | 81 |
| Corn Dent | 60 | 50 | 50 | 52 |
| Corn Mature | 17 | 9 | 23 | 21 |
| Corn Silage | 30 | NA | 24 | 21 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 84 | 80 | 91 | 88 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 59 | 50 | 67 | 66 |
| Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested | 31 | 20 | 24 | 26 |
| Tobacco, Burley Harvested | 10 | NA | 5 | 6 |
| Peanuts Pegged | 95 | 90 | 100 | 99 |
| Cotton Setting Bolls | 100 | 95 | 100 | 97 |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 30 | 15 | 18 | 25 |
| Summer Potatoes Harvested | 85 | 82 | 96 | 98 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 85 | 70 | 96 | 85 |
| Peaches Harvested | 86 | 74 | 90 | 82 |

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 19, 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. 18 | Mar. 1 to Aug. 18 normal * | Last Week | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 85 | 63 | 94 | 55 | 74 | -1 | 2848 | 2694 | 0.33 | 10.58 | 0.41 | 26.33 | -1.98 |
| Norfolk | 88 | 71 | 98 | 60 | 79 | 0 | 3116 | 2963 | 0.81 | 10.21 | -1.52 | 22.11 | -8.17 |
| Richmond | 90 | 67 | 98 | 59 | 79 | 1 | 3184 | 2924 | 3.50 | 12.11 | -1.40 | 27.45 | -1.14 |
| Roanoke | 85 | 66 | 94 | 58 | 76 | 0 | 3136 | NA | 0.00 | 5.88 | -3.91 | 19.10 | -8.58 |
| Wash/Dulles | 89 | 65 | 97 | 55 | 77 | 1 | 2905 | NA | 0.13 | 5.09 | -4.69 | 16.41 | -10.05 |

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

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Dry conditions continue to take a toll on pastures. Water sources are drying up. Some livestock producers are hauling water. The corn crop for silage is drying down early. Dry conditions are affecting the apple crop in size and quality.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Farmers are harvesting silage and making corn that was being grown for grain into silage and green chop for emergency feed. Farmers are scouting soybeans for corn earworm, mites and diseases. Some hayfields have been clipped or harvested to remove drought damaged upper growth and hopefully stimulate new growth when rain comes. We have had a few scattered showers, but rain remains scarce and crops are still stressed. Soybean yields will probably be down 40-50%. It may get worse if it remains dry. Corn is beyond help with 70-80% losses in many areas.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Powhatan and Goochland received over 3 inches of rain since Thursday. The recent rains will provide some relief to stressed pastures and hayfields. The rains are timely as soybeans are developing pods.

PRINCE EDWARD (Bobby Long)

Continued dry conditions coupled with excessive heat over the past two weeks have taken their toll on many crops. Corn silage harvest reports are surprisingly good thus far with yields hovering around long-term averages. Unfortunately, the same may not hold true for silage quality. Pastures are severely grazed in much of the county with many producers feeding winter hay supplies, selling calves, and culling cows to manage feed demands. Most livestock producers are hopeful of late summer/early fall rains to enable stockpiling and to produce some fall hay. Without such rainfall, on-hand feed reserves can easily be depleted long before winter's end.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Wythe Morris)

No significant rainfall occurred during the past week. Creeks and streams are reaching all time lows for this area. Sustained heat continues to affect pumpkins and other vegetables. Woodland and forest areas are dangerously dry also.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

High temperatures with occasional breezes have limited plant growth and topsoil moisture. Corn is maturing rapidly. Pastures that were green two weeks ago are now brown again. Milk production is suffering from the heat as well.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Very little rainfall coupled with record high temperatures has many crops suffering. Only the corn planted early or in deep bottomland soils are doing well. Many producers will not have a significant second cutting of hay, if any at all. Pastures are in dire need of precipitation as well. Some livestock producers will probably have to cull stricter than normal. Dry conditions will also present a problem for timber interests in the next 1-3 years as the results of drought slowly show. Japanese Beetle pressure on grapes, fruit & vegetables and ornamentals, while lighter than in past years, has lingered on.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The relief from rains 2-3 weeks ago has again been overshadowed by extremely hot temperatures. Pasture conditions are showing signs of deterioration again. Second cutting hay has yielded surprisingly well despite the drought, but substantially lower tonnage than normal years.

WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)

Drought conditions continue to persist in Wythe County. Many producers are marketing their livestock early in an attempt to relieve pressure on stressed pastures. Many producers are feeding hay to supplement dry pastures. Most producers have used their hay fields as emergency pasture so second cutting hay is almost nonexistent. Some producers are also reporting hauling water to livestock because their water sources are dry or infrequent. Reed Creek was flowing at a record low level this morning, based off of 88 years of records.