



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: Aug 21-Aug 27, 2006

Number: 25

Released: Aug 28, 2006

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2006

A lack of rainfall and hot temperatures continued to cause stress in many crops and livestock throughout the Commonwealth this week. Days suitable for field work were 6.9. Rainfall was below normal again this week. Temperatures remained above normal with an average high of 92 degrees. Small showers brought relief in some areas, but for the most part, another dry week took its toll on hay, pastures, and field crops. Pasture and hay conditions continued to suffer this week, and many cattle producers are supplementing pastures with hay and grain. Stockpiling hay for the winter as well as fall grazing could be in a concern if dry conditions persist. Early planted corn has done well and harvest is underway. Late planted corn, however, has experienced poor pollination and ear fill in many areas. Soybeans are also showing signs of stress from the lack of moisture. In some areas, beans are dropping flowers and pods are not filling well. Corn earworms have been a problem this week, thus many producers have begun to spray for insects. Fall tomato harvest is underway, and other vegetable harvest continued. Some producers are preparing the ground for strawberries. Other farm activities this week included attending field tours, planning for small grain planting season, and preparing grain bins for the upcoming harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
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
August 27, 2006	36	41	23	0

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	93	56	74	2	0.02	-0.68	1
Warrenton	92	61	76	3	0.45	-0.39	1
Winchester 7 SE	94	56	75	5	1.19	0.42	1
Dale Enterprises	92	55	72	2	0.00	-0.77	0
WESTERN							
Glasgow	94	60	76	4	0.00	-0.7	0
Roanoke AP	94	64	78	5	0.06	-0.85	1
Waynesboro	92	60	73	4	0.00	-0.83	0
Staunton AG	91	58	74	4	0.00	-0.83	0
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	94	60	77	3	0.00	-1.04	0
Piedmont Res ST	93	62	78	5	0.00	-0.91	0
Bremo Bluff	99	62	80	7	0.00	-0.92	0
Richmond AP	96	67	81	6	0.00	-0.92	0
EASTERN							
Eastville	91	70	80	4	0.00	-0.84	0
Wallops Island	92	65	78	2	0.32	-0.45	1
Williamsburg	92	60	79	4	0.00	-1.05	0
Keysville	93	63	77	4	0.90	0.01	2
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	88	57	71	4	0.00	-0.84	0
Wytheville	88	53	70	3	0.32	-0.39	2
Saltville	89	56	73	4	0.66	-0.18	1
Richlands	87	55	71	7	0.52	-0.32	1
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	90	60	75	4	0.57	-0.42	2
Danville AG	94	64	80	4	0.09	-0.74	2
Chatham	92	58	76	4	0.16	-0.68	3
Martinsville	90	58	75	4	0.95	0.11	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	95	68	81	5	0.00	-1.05	0
Oceana	94	66	80	4	0.02	-1.24	1
Emporia	94	65	79	5	0.02	-0.97	1
Newport News	93	67	80	4	0.41	-0.64	1

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of August 21-August 27, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	22	33	27	15	3
Livestock	1	7	30	50	12
Other Hay	15	32	33	15	5
Alfalfa Hay	6	27	33	28	6
Corn	2	8	33	42	15
Soybeans	7	18	47	25	3
Flue-cured Tobacco	9	23	44	20	4
Burley Tobacco	0	1	15	56	28
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	4	24	49	23	0
Peanuts	0	06	27	43	24
Cotton	0	11	23	41	25
All Apples	0	3	72	25	0
Grapes	0	1	26	71	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	90	78	88	87
Corn Dent	70	51	57	64
Corn Mature	40	24	27	37
Corn Silage Harvested	45	25	41	32
Soybeans Blooming	95	93	97	94
Soybeans Setting Pods	83	69	83	76
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	34	25	33	38
Burley Tobacco Harvested	11	6	12	17
Cotton Bolls Opening	25	20	58	32
Fall Apples Harvested	5	0	30	15
Peaches Harvested	99	91	87	90

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):

Conditions in Northumberland and Lancaster are very dry. Corn made yields before drought conditions arrived, but soybeans yield potential is dropping each day; late-planted double-crop beans have been affected most. Corn harvest is only days from being in full-swing, and several large producers have already begun. Corn earworm populations have been on the rise in soybeans, and many farmers have sprayed for them this week or will be spraying soon.

WARREN COUNTY (Crystal Smith):

Warren County is very, very dry. We are in need of significant rainfall. Grass is being burned up. Pasture is in terrible condition.

GREENSVILLE COUNTY (Cyndi Estienne):

In general, the southern part of the county is quite dry while the northern half has received adequate rainfall.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, *Cont.*

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):

Flue-cured tobacco harvest is progressing well. Most producers have finished priming, and 50% completed with lugs and cutters. Few acres of early maturing and/or diseased are finished. The whole county needs a rain. Soybean yield potential is suffering.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

Small showers throughout the week kept crops in good condition. We are seeing signs of increased parasite loads in sheep due to short pasture and confined spaces during the drought period. Vegetables are beginning to wind down, with some farmers preparing ground and bedding for strawberries. Second cutting hay is being put up now, and looks to be much better than the sparse first cutting.

FLOYD COUNTY (David Cuddy):

Continued dry weather is a concern as we move into fall. The corn crop looks good; however, fescue stockpiling and fall grazing could be impacted if dry conditions persist.

KING GEORGE COUNTY (Regina Prunty):

Conditions are extremely dry. Beans are wilting and pastures are drying out.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Dry weather continues and soybean, peanut, and cotton yields are beginning to decline. Spotty showers help some areas, but they are isolated. We need a good soaker.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Producers are spraying soybeans for corn ear worms, picking corn and looking for rain.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

High temperatures and no significant rainfall are posing problems for most crops. Rainfall and cooler temps predicted for this coming week will be helpful, but may create issues of increased disease potentials for crop maturities and harvesting delays.

HENRICO COUNTY (Karen Carter):

The majority of the corn crop is finished growing and is ready for harvest. Corn earworms have been a problem and most producers have had to spray at least once. Soybean conditions are difficult to report by percentages since both early and late season beans are grown in Henrico. Early beans have looked good up to this point, but are now suffering from lack of adequate rainfall. Late beans are not expected to do well without rainfall soon. When rainfall has occurred, results have varied widely. One producer estimates a loss of 75A of low-lying beans that were flooded in the same storm that flooded Shockoe Bottom on August 14th. Another producer reported only receiving .10" of rain from the same system. Finally, one producer reported that geese continue to be a problem, and estimates that they have destroyed 6-8 acres of beans.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Corn for silage is looking very good here. Chopping is in full swing. Some of the soybeans are showing drought stress; small beans are drying on the plant. Some livestock producers have begun feeding hay to beef cattle and hay is scarce. The tobacco crop is going to be light in weight this year. Producers are still getting their Premise Id completed. Many fall programs are being planned and advertised.