

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**CENTRAL**

**AMHERST (William W. Seay)**

Spotty scattered showers bring temporary relief to some portions of the county while some livestock producers continue to supplement pastures with hay and haul water. Corn harvested for silage has begun about 2 weeks early.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Better and more widely distributed rains have improved pasture and hayfields. If improvement continues there may be another cutting of hay. Producers are finishing up the silage harvest which came very early as cornfields dried down rapidly. Prospects for soybean yields have improved as moisture conditions are better. However, it looks like yields will still be off by at least 40%. If we do not see a regular pattern of rainfall, test weights will probably be low due to poor pod fill. Corn earworms are being found in many fields over threshold levels and farmers are spraying insecticides.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Some corn was harvested for grain this week. Corn silage is also being harvested. Farmers are placing wheat seed orders early this year anticipating short wheat seed supplies. Some soybean acres are being treated this week for heavy population of corn earworms (CEW) and bean leaf beetle (BLB). Hot, dry weather seems to have favored CEW egg survival and BLB populations.

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)**

Another week with little to no rain and extremely high temperatures continue to add to drought conditions and continued decline in most crops. Grain corn is not setting ears and producing kernels. Soybeans are still stunted and not maturing adequately. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is being delayed because the tobacco is not maturing. Burley harvest is picking up. The local livestock continues to be flooded with cull animals and the extension office is receiving many calls looking for hay.

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Spotty thunder showers have provided temporary relief for many sections of the county. Some localized rains produced 2.5 to 3 inches in an hour's time. Corn is maturing earlier than normal. Many of the stocker cattle have been sold and moved. Lambs are being marketed. Activities include preparations for next weeks Highland County Fair.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

Feed supplies continue to be used very heavily throughout the county. Forage growth is nonexistent. Corn is drying down very quickly. Silage harvest is struggling to keep up with the rapidness of corn dry down and forage quality losses. Livestock continue to be stressed excessively due to above normal temperatures for both day and night.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week of: Aug. 20 – Aug. 26, 2007**

**Number: 25**

**Released: Aug. 27, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 26, 2007**

Numerous thunderstorms during the week helped replenish soil moisture and crop conditions across the Commonwealth. Days suitable for work were 5.7. Topsoil moisture was generally adequate. Corn is continuing to dry down very quickly. Silage harvest has begun in most areas. Grain corn harvest is expected to begin next week in some areas if conditions persist. Livestock producers continue to supplement pastures with hay while concern continues to mount in reference to winter feed supplies. Soybeans have recovered well because of precipitation in the last two weeks. The tomato harvest is winding down as the tobacco harvest begins. Peanuts and cotton have improved in part due to rain and lower temperatures. Other activities this week include scouting fields for insects, spraying, preparing equipment for harvest, and fall plantings.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 26, 2007	25	36	36	3
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



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**The Census Is Coming!**

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	27	29	35	9	0
Livestock	2	9	35	45	9
Other Hay	27	33	31	9	0
Alfalfa Hay	14	24	33	26	3
Corn	28	33	25	13	1
Soybeans	20	31	36	13	0
Flue-Cured Tobacco	4	26	44	26	0
Burley Tobacco	3	25	48	17	7
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco	0	70	20	10	0
Peanuts	0	22	46	32	0
Cotton	6	20	43	31	0
All Apples	4	10	31	50	5
Grapes	0	9	31	55	5

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	87	79	88	88
Corn Dent	69	60	67	65
Corn Mature	23	17	38	35
Corn Silage	41	30	42	36
Soybeans Blooming	87	84	95	94
Soybeans Setting Pods	67	59	81	77
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	40	31	33	34
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	12	10	10	12
Cotton Bolls Opening	33	30	24	33
Summer Potatoes Harvested	95	85	99	100
Summer Apples Harvested	95	85	100	97
Peaches Harvested	95	86	98	92

\* Revised

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 26, 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. 25	Mar. 1 to Aug. 25 normal *	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	67	96	60	79	6	3035	2859	0.67	11.25	0.33	27.00	-2.03
Norfolk	86	72	95	67	79	2	3313	3146	2.06	12.27	-0.51	24.17	-7.21
Richmond	87	69	96	62	78	2	3370	3097	1.37	13.48	1.86	28.82	-0.58
Roanoke	95	70	100	63	83	9	3335	NA	0.22	6.10	-4.60	19.32	-9.09
Wash/Dulles	81	66	97	59	73	-1	3061	NA	1.25	6.34	-4.22	17.66	-9.93

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

**EASTERN**

**ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Numerous thunderstorms during the week helped replenish soil moisture. The rain was too late for corn, but very timely for soybeans even though they were severely stunted. Tomato harvest is winding down. Vines are being destroyed for field cleanup and attention is turning to the fall crop. Potato harvesting is winding up with harvest ending later than usual due to poor market situation. Corn harvest may start next week if it remains dry and corn dries down quickly.

**KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)**

The entire county received much needed rain early in the week amounting to 2.25 inches. Scattered showers have brought sporadic additional moisture. Rain was too late for most crops but will help pastures.

**NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)**

Soybeans have recovered well with the last 2 weeks of timely rains, but corn is still a major loss in most areas. Growers spent the week scouting and spraying for corn earworm. Most fields were treated, as pest numbers were well above threshold in the majority of areas. Growers have been preparing equipment for harvest and making arrangements with local elevators for contracted corn that cannot be delivered due to extreme drought.

**WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

Last weeks showers helped perk up soybeans with some new growth and blooming and pod setting. Beans are being scouted and sprayed for corn earworm this week. Some beans are looking much better. Some vegetable harvest continues as well as some fall plantings. Hay and pasture fields are making a slow recovery. Without much rainfall, on-hand feed reserves can easily be depleted long before winter's end.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Corn continues to mature quickly. Corn silage harvesting has begun, as has tobacco harvest, though sparingly. Spotty showers moved through the area and most areas in the county saw some rain, with isolated areas receiving up to 2 inches.

**LEE (Harold Jerrell)**

As the last week of August begins, no rainfall has been recorded near Rose Hill. Temperatures have been in the low to mid 90's most of the month adding to additional stress on plants and livestock.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Drought conditions continue for most of the area, although some isolated locations have received rain from pop-up thunderstorms. Record high temperatures are magnifying the adverse effects of drought.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Extreme temperatures have taken a toll on pastures and meadows again. Even with 2.3 inches of rain this weekend, pastures are unlikely to bounce back with re-growth. Concern over grass survival this winter continues to be a common topic, along with reseeding and over seeding recommendations increasing. Cattle producers continue selling cattle and are reluctant to hold and wean calves for VQA fall sales. Lack of hay and pasture are forcing many to drastically reduce herds with the hope of rebuilding this spring. Vegetables are yielding well with on-farm sales increasing this year.