

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Much needed tropical moisture soaked the area with limited flooding. Most of the rain infiltrated the ground, helping water levels.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Most of the region received an excellent rain last week, compliments of Tropical Storm Fay, and crops seemed to respond overnight. Hayfields and pastures are showing the most notable improvements, along with corn that was suffering due to drought conditions. Even after 2 or more inches of rain, we are still behind over 5 inches for the 12 month period. Concerns are now focused on getting some crops harvested before the next tropical system heads our way. Increased moisture and cloudy days could be very problematic for fruit and vegetable growers.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Conditions have deteriorated considerably over the past two weeks. Lack of rainfall and high daytime temperatures have stopped and already slow pasture re-growth, second cutting of hay is sparse to non-existent with most farmers grazing their meadows. Silage and ear corn has or is tasseling and silking and in need of rain for ear formation. Cattle are being sold in higher numbers. (The highest that I can remember in the past 6 years.) Cattle continue to be sold due to lack of pasture and hay. Most farmers have indicated they started feeding hay in mid to late July. The rains from Fay have cooled things down and are providing some relief, but will not improve conditions significantly if no additional rainfall occurs.

WYTHE (Duane Farthing)

Three days of rain from Fay really helped out the water situation.

SOUTHERN

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)

There was 4.85 inches of rain in Henry County last week from Fay.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The rain this week was well received. The soybeans are not setting pods well due to dry weather. Corn silage harvest is down this year. Hay yields are down as well. Pastures are in poor shape, the rain may help some pastures that were just dormant at this point. Some wells are very low taking a day to recharge and some others have gone dry.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent showers have helped relieve some of the drought, but corn, soybean, hay, and cotton crops are already cut. Corn harvest is underway with soybeans being sprayed for insects and peanuts for spider mites. Cattle producers are feeding winter hay.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

The county received scattered showers. Some places received up to 2 inches and other places only 1/5 of inch. Variability of crops is due to showers. The majority of the county is still below normal for rainfall. We are still asking for disaster declaration. The crops are pushed for time. Rain will help make some of the cotton yields and peanut yields. Double crop soybeans might make decent yields if we get the rain.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

We received showers last week and crops are progressing along well. We are expecting some heat units this week that will help push crops to maturity. Farmers are preparing and engaging in the corn harvest.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Farmers are preparing to begin corn harvest. Some corn was cut for the opening day of Dove season. Corn moisture is still fairly high for harvest. The threat of a hurricane coming up the coast may influence some farmers to start harvesting earlier than desired to avoid harvesting downed corn in wet fields.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: August 25- 31, 2008

Number: 25

Released: September 2, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 2008

Remnants from Hurricane Fay brought much needed precipitation to Virginia. Rainfall varied from 1/5 of an inch to over 5 inches. Days suitable for field work were 4.7. The rain improved pasture conditions and late planted crops. It also replenished irrigation ponds and improved small stream flow. The rain came too late to make significant improvements for corn and some soybeans. In some cases, soybeans are prematurely dropping flowers or their pods are not filling out. However, with favorable weather conditions, some of the double crop soybeans can still make decent yields. The majority of cotton and peanuts are in fair to good condition. Other farming activities included maintenance on harvesting equipment, bush hogging around ditches, spraying for corn worms, and taking short vacations before harvesting is well underway.

| Week Ending | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| August 31, 2008 | 26 | 32 | 40 | 2 |
| August 24, 2008 | 41 | 44 | 15 | 0 |
| August 17, 2008 | 28 | 42 | 30 | 0 |
| August 10, 2008 | 17 | 43 | 40 | 0 |
| August 3, 2008 | 15 | 35 | 49 | 1 |

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| CROP CONDITION PERCENT | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Pasture | 16 | 26 | 42 | 15 | 1 |
| Livestock | 1 | 4 | 31 | 53 | 11 |
| Hay, Other | 15 | 23 | 41 | 19 | 2 |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 2 | 16 | 45 | 31 | 6 |
| Corn | 13 | 24 | 28 | 28 | 7 |
| Soybeans | 15 | 23 | 35 | 25 | 2 |
| Tobacco, Flue-cured | 17 | 18 | 37 | 24 | 4 |
| Tobacco, Burley | 0 | 6 | 26 | 59 | 9 |
| Tobacco, Fire-cured | 2 | 60 | 20 | 18 | 0 |
| Peanuts | 0 | 12 | 30 | 54 | 4 |
| Cotton | 0 | 12 | 40 | 45 | 3 |
| Apples, All | 0 | 0 | 22 | 68 | 10 |
| Grapes | 0 | 1 | 16 | 69 | 14 |

| CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Crop | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
| Corn Dough | 90 | 83 | 94 | 92 |
| Corn Dent | 73 | 70 | 83 | 73 |
| Corn Mature | 38 | 35 | 49 | 42 |
| Corn Harvested for Grain | 2 | NA | 3 | 3 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 41 | 36 | 52 | 48 |
| Soybeans Blooming | 93 | 92 | 94 | 96 |
| Soybeans Setting Pods | 78 | 72 | 83 | 85 |
| Soybeans Dropping Leaves | 1 | NA | 1 | 3 |
| Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested | 30 | 28 | 44 | 44 |
| Tobacco, Burley Harvested | 12 | 10 | 15 | 19 |
| Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured Harvested | 56 | 38 | NA | NA |
| Cotton Bolls Opening | 18 | 10 | 45 | 44 |
| Summer Apples Harvested | 83 | 63 | 99 | 100 |
| Fall Apples Harvested | 13 | NA | NA | NA |
| Peaches Harvested | 89 | 72 | 99 | 98 |
| Oats for Grain Harvested | 84 | 71 | NA | NA |

| VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF August 24 – 30, 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 30 | Mar. 1 to Aug 30 normal | Last Week | Since Jun. 1 | Jun. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Lynchburg | 80 | 63 | 90 | 59 | 72 | -1 | 2983 | 2998 | 2.73 | 5.70 | -5.70 | 19.75 | -9.72 |
| Norfolk | 84 | 73 | 92 | 70 | 78 | 2 | 3509 | 3299 | 0.03 | 6.41 | -7.22 | 21.81 | -10.26 |
| Richmond | 84 | 69 | 92 | 67 | 76 | 1 | 3452 | 3244 | 5.63 | 13.42 | 1.22 | 34.74 | 4.80 |
| Roanoke | 80 | 63 | 90 | 60 | 72 | -1 | 3153 | NA | 4.56 | 13.47 | 2.25 | 25.45 | -3.80 |
| Wash/Dulles | 81 | 65 | 89 | 60 | 73 | 0 | 2985 | NA | 1.26 | 8.90 | -2.36 | 30.64 | 2.53 |

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)

Culpeper received two to three inches of soaking rain last week across the area, which made big improvements in forage growth and in late crops.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Showers from Fay provided much needed relief. Replenished springs, green and growing crops, hay meadows and pasture are a direct result of the 3+ inches of rainfall over 3 days.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Recent rains have revived pastures and most small stream flow. Additional rains will be needed soon as the high temperatures continue to draw top soil moisture.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is still very short, even after the remnants of Fay, which only yielded about one inch in the area. Soybeans are still in critical need of rain. Yield has been significantly impacted by lack of moisture. Hay and pasture are in short supply, and will be very scarce later in the year.

GREENE (Cathryn Kloetzli)

The county received a total of 4 inches of rain last week.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Recent rains have provided some relief. Pastures are beginning to green up from drought stress. Corn silage harvested is underway due to drought conditions. Recent corn yield estimates are from 50-120 bushels of corn, which is better than expected. The full season soybean pods have not filled out due to drought conditions. The recent rains most likely will not bring relief. Double crop beans are extremely poor and

will not produce. Livestock producers are beginning pasture renovations to revive drought stressed pastures. Drought information has been submitted for drought disaster status.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

No significant rain. Soybeans are at critical stages. Rain is needed in the next 10 days or yields will be off considerably. Other activities include spraying for corn earworm and other worms in soybeans throughout the county. Corn drying down. Harvest should start soon. Yields will be off average yield of at least 20 to 25 percent. Some fields more. Irrigated corn much better. Tomato picking continues. Other activities include scouting for insects and disease in snap and lima beans. Farmers were working on harvest equipment and grain trucks and taking a short vacation.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Rain brought some needed moisture, but conditions overall are still dry. Pastures and beans need more water.

NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Farmers are spraying for corn earworms in soybeans, picking corn, bush hogging around fields.