

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain has been spotty in the county. It has been slightly better here with rain, but heat and humidity have been high this week. Thunderstorms have dropped rain and high winds in areas, which has been hard on tobacco harvest.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rainfall over the weekend helped to refresh crops. Rainfall ranged from 0.5 - 1.5 inches across the county. Soybeans and peanuts are showing moisture stress again late this week. The biggest concern is corn earworm in soybeans. We are finding fewer worms this week, most likely due to rainfall and beneficial insects. A few fields are being sprayed but nothing widespread. Double crop soybeans will enter the susceptible growth stages over the next 10 days. We had a good turnout for our annual Tri-County Crops field day.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Some areas of the county haven't seen rain for about two weeks and are beginning to dry out. Insecticides are going out on soybeans and cotton. Corn harvest will start this week (Sept. 1).

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Field conditions are a little dry now, but crops are in good shape. Insecticide treatments continue in peanuts, cotton and soybeans for stinkbugs and corn-earworms. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is in full swing and corn harvest is underway. Growers continue to get machinery ready for the upcoming harvest season along with attending Field Day activities.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

If we can get a couple of showers, it will add weight to the fruit of soybeans, peanuts and cotton.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: August 30, 2009

Number: 25

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 30, 2009

Precipitation continued to be scattered throughout the State this week, with some areas observing crop improvement due to timely rainfall, while others experienced reoccurring signs of moisture stress in row crops. Several days of dry weather did however allow for the continued harvest of tobacco, corn silage, and hay. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Soybean growers remain on the lookout for insects and disease, and while corn earworms, armyworms, and loopers have all made an appearance, the overall insect pressure appears limited. Preparations are also being made for corn grain harvest, the planting of fall wheat and barley crops, and the upcoming hair sheep sale.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 30, 2009	3	21	71	5
August 23, 2009	4	15	73	8
August 16, 2009	3	23	69	5
August 9, 2009	2	17	74	7
August 2, 2009	3	15	69	13



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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	28	51	12
Livestock	1	2	16	63	18
Hay, Other	0	7	29	53	11
Hay, Alfalfa	1	3	20	58	18
Corn	3	8	23	50	16
Soybeans	0	5	21	55	19
Flue Cured Tobacco	5	11	39	37	8
Burley Tobacco	0	1	5	72	22
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	0	1	6	86	7
Peanuts	0	0	9	82	9
Cotton	0	2	18	67	13
Apples, All	0	0	19	79	2
Grapes	0	0	2	89	9

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	87	84	89	93
Corn Dent	66	62	73	74
Corn Mature	45	31	38	42
Corn Harvested for Grain	1	0	2	2
Corn Silage Harvested	53	48	40	48
Soybeans Blooming	93	90	93	96
Soybeans Setting Pods	79	71	77	84
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	2	0	1	3
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	47	44	30	41
Burley Tobacco Harvested	13	7	12	17
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	62	40	53	39
Cotton Bolls Opening	28	19	17	43
Summer Apples Harvested	78	75	80	95
Apples Fall Harvested	9	0	11	18
Peaches Harvested	86	80	87	95

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 30, 2009													
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 August 29	Mar 1 to August 29 normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	65	89	62	75	2	3016	2954	0.99	9.62	-1.69	27.03	-2.35
Norfolk	86	72	91	69	79	2	3499	3250	0.91	21.17	7.78	36.58	4.78
Richmond	89	69	92	67	79	4	3455	3196	0.32	11.74	-0.36	24.49	-5.37
Roanoke	84	66	87	63	75	1	3170	NA	0.10	14.81	3.68	32.30	3.21
Wash/Dulles	87	67	91	63	77	3	3114	NA	0.12	12.60	1.55	32.41	4.48

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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CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Dark Fire-cured and Burley tobacco harvest are well underway. Due to weather, the tobacco crop has grown considerably larger this year and is requiring more barn space. Corn silage yields are much higher than expected, as several dairies have filled their silo capacity and will shell the remaining corn when dry. Herbicide applications continue on the double cropped soybeans and many farmers have started disking fields in preparation of small grain planting.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Moisture conditions are very good. Some forage producers have gotten a third cutting of hay. Grain farmers are preparing to harvest corn. Corn silage harvest is almost over. Soybean producers are scouting fields for corn earworm and other insects. Armyworms and loopers have been found in some fields, but not in critical numbers.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Precipitation continues to be widely scattered, with the eastern end of the county getting more rain than the western end. Crops vary widely due to the moisture patterns. Corn fields that are 7 miles apart range from poor to excellent. Forage conditions are the best in six years with timely rains even in the drier areas of the county.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Chardonnay grapes have begun to be harvested.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Continued rainfall is making for an excellent soybean crop. Spraying has occurred in some fields for the corn earworm. Growers are actively scouting their soybean crop. Fall tomato crop picking has started. Scouting continues for insects in limas and snap beans. Farmers are planning for fall wheat and barley crops and a few are attending meetings. Corn is slow to dry down due to rains.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers have been busy scouting soybeans for insects and disease. Corn earworm pressure has been light in soybeans, but a few fields have reached the economic threshold and have been treated. Some soybean fields received fungicide applications during the week. A few producers continued to harvest corn.

KING GEORGE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions have improved over last week.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

One week ago we had rainfall over 2 inches. This week there has been barely more than a tenth. Temps were high early in the week, but have cooled. Forecast is for 70s this week and cloudy, thus continuing the increased disease problems for fruit and vegetable growers. Fall vegetable crops have been started. A second cutting of hayfields is still underway.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Weather has allowed haying to carry on this week, with reports of above average and well below average hay yields. It appears that most below average hay yields are being reported from fields where no fertilizer was added this spring. Vegetable crops are holding steady, with good off-farm sales due to diseases destroying home gardens. Producers are preparing for the upcoming hair sheep sale, and working with consignors of VAPAH to prepare paperwork for the November sale.