



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

Tropical Storm Ernesto brought significant rainfall to the Commonwealth this week. Most areas welcomed the rain, while some areas reported flooding of roads and fields. Days suitable for field work were 3.7. The average temperature this week was 73 degrees. The storm system brought rainfall amounts averaging 5 inches across the state, while some areas reported more than 10 inches of rainfall. The increase in moisture has eased dry conditions, but has hindered harvest and field work. Producers expect that the timing of rainfall and cooler temperatures should improve pastures, hay fields, and field crops. Pastures have greened some and hay conditions have improved. Hay supplies remain short as some cattle producers are looking for ways to supplement for the winter. Corn harvest had begun before the rain, and reported yields were good. Some minor wind damage was reported in corn fields in some areas. Soybeans are somewhat recovering from the dry conditions. Farmers hope the heavy rains will help eliminate corn earworm problems. Vegetable producers are still reporting good quality produce, and most vegetable crops benefited from the rains. Much of the tobacco crop has been harvested, and what remains in the field looks good. Other farm activities this week included scouting fields for insect problems, and removing downed trees and other debris from the storm.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
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
September 3, 2006	2	7	68	23

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	91	53	70	-2	3.02	2.32	6
Warrenton	91	55	71	-2	4.40	3.56	7
Winchester 7 SE	89	55	71	1	3.62	2.85	6
Dale Enterprises	90	51	69	-2	4.73	3.96	6
WESTERN							
Glasgow	95	58	73	3	5.91	5.21	5
Roanoke AP	95	58	74	2	2.04	1.18	4
Waynesboro	91	54	70	2	5.90	5.10	4
Staunton AG	88	53	69	0	6.41	5.61	4
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	94	56	73	0	2.59	1.61	5
Piedmont Res ST	94	56	73	2	4.11	3.24	6
Bremo Bluff	98	58	76	4	4.89	4.03	6
Richmond AP	98	61	78	4	6.24	5.39	4
EASTERN							
Eastville	94	65	77	2	11.32	10.48	6
Wallops Island	94	61	76	0	4.51	3.74	3
Williamsburg	96	60	75	2	11.05	10.00	6
Keysville	95	58	74	2	5.16	4.30	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	88	55	69	2	1.43	0.59	4
Wytheville	88	53	69	2	2.75	2.05	3
Saltville	88	58	71	4	1.08	0.28	6
Richlands	86	58	70	7	1.37	0.55	6
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	93	56	74	3	2.70	1.66	4
Danville AG	98	60	75	0	3.31	2.54	6
Chatham	96	57	73	2	4.11	3.27	5
Martinsville	92	59	73	2	3.04	2.18	6
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	98	62	79	4	11.08	10.08	4
Oceana	96	60	78	2	7.67	6.45	4
Emporia	96	59	76	4	6.93	5.95	4
Newport News	96	63	78	3	8.44	7.44	4

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	13	27	33	24	3
Livestock	2	8	24	55	11
Other Hay	11	28	39	17	5
Alfalfa Hay	5	22	35	31	7
Corn	4	9	34	38	15
Soybeans	4	17	43	32	4
Flue-cured Tobacco	2	16	48	20	14
Burley Tobacco	0	0	15	57	28
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	8	34	45	13	0
Peanuts	0	3	44	21	32
Cotton	0	12	34	42	12
All Apples	0	3	67	30	0
Grapes	0	1	19	80	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	94	90	93	92
Corn Dent	81	70	70	76
Corn Mature	51	40	36	50
Corn Grain Harvested	3	0	0	10
Corn Silage Harvested	58	45	50	45
Soybeans Blooming	97	95	100	98
Soybeans Setting Pods	92	83	86	85
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	8	0	3	5
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	40	34	41	48
Burley Tobacco Harvested	31	11	20	33
Peanuts Dug	0	0	0	1
Cotton Bolls Opening	50	25	70	42
Cotton Harvested	0	0	0	0
Fall Apples Harvested	27	5	54	27

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

PAGE COUNTY (William Whittle):

Over five inches of rain fell this week throughout Page County. Cloudy weather has prevailed for the last three days of the week. Pasture and hay fields have greened up but have minimal growth at this time. Late corn and beans have shown some life and will continue to grow if we get sunlight.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):

Ernesto had a greater impact in Northumberland and Lancaster than forecasters predicted. Corn yields were reduced by about 30 bu. per acre due to stalk lodging that resulted from 40mph+ sustained winds. Soybean yields were actually helped by the 8-12 inches of rain that fell across the area. Over the weekend, farmers were removing downed trees and limbs from farm roads in order to access their fields and farmsteads.

PULASKI COUNTY (Mike Fisher):

Hurricane Ernesto brought some much needed rain to Pulaski County. We received a gentle shower every day since Tuesday night, with only the first rain bringing any "heavy" weather to the County. While the rain was greatly needed, it has put a halt to fertilizer spreading for stockpiled fescue and some late summer hay making.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Ernesto was a drought buster, but 8-10 inches was a little much. Some corn was blown down, and cotton tangled, but not a great amount of crop damage was done.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Rain totals for the week ranged from 3 to 5 inches of much needed moisture. Forages were quick to respond by greening. Rain will improve late fall grazing pastures but is too late for silage corn. Chief activities, besides watching it rain, included the Highland County Fair, which was washed out on Friday but made up by adding an extra day on Sunday.

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

Welcomed rains fell across Campbell County on Thursday and Friday. Rainfall amounts were in the 7+ inch range. There is concern that many orchard grass and some fescue fields have already died. It will be 2-3 weeks before we really know the situation on re-seeding grasslands. Hay supplies continue to be short as beef producers look for additional hay for winter.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

The moisture situation has much improved. Pastures and hayfields are recovering slowly from drought conditions. Soybeans are recovering somewhat but only time will tell how much damage the extremely dry period from July through most of August did to their yield potential. Farmers have started harvesting corn for grain, and yields have been moderate to good. However, excessive moisture since Ernesto has halted harvesting for the moment. Farmers have been scouting for corn earworm in soybeans, but so far they have not been seen in great numbers.

KING GEORGE COUNTY (Regina Prunty):

The area received over 7 inches of rain which brought relief to the drought, but too late for most crops. Beans, hay and pastures were especially suffering from the drought. Corn harvest began earlier in the week.

ORANGE COUNTY (Steve Hopkins):

Rain has improved pasture conditions. There was some minor wind damage to corn fields. There was higher-than-normal selling of livestock earlier in the week because of dry conditions, and because small streams and springs are drying up with the recent dry weather.