

**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)**

Silage corn was harvested at a frantic pace with threats of more tropical storms. Hay continues to be fed to some beef herds to supplement short pastures.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

We were back to dry conditions again last week. Pastures and hayfields are still showing the positive results of rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay. We are seeing a significant number of mature trees in forest and urban settings dying, presumably from the past 2.5 - 3 years of drought conditions.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Agricultural conditions information was presented to the Board of Supervisors yesterday, and a resolution was passed to declare the county a disaster. Light showers from Fay have allowed grass to green up, but little growth has occurred. Some relief may be experienced if additional rains are received.

**TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)**

Tazewell missed the much needed moisture from Tropical Storm Hanna.

**SOUTHERN**

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

Large amounts of rainfall late in the season have done little to improve drought stress on crops and pastures. Tobacco maturity is being delayed and frost is becoming a concern very quickly. Most producers have finished their first pulling. Very few have finished the second. Corn harvest will begin shortly.

National Agricultural Statistics Service  
USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



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Pasture and hay lands are still very short and we have seen little growth despite the rain that we have had over the past few weeks. Producers are concerned that there will be no fall hay cutting.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Tropical Storm Hanna brought much needed rain and very little damage. Rainfall varied from 1.5 - 4 inches. This will help cotton, peanuts and late planted soybeans. We are still short on subsoil moisture.

**SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

The County received 2 inches of rain from the storm. It was a good general rain; it should help late soybeans, cotton, and the peanut crop. Farmers are scouting for insect disease. Once the fields dry off, grain producers will start the corn harvest.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Soybeans continue to suffer from lack of soil moisture. Yield potential is decreasing rapidly. Corn harvest began this week with variable yields. Overall, yields will be poor, although good grain quality expected.

**VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)**

Standing corn was not damaged by high winds (40 - 50 mph) from Tropical Storm Hanna. Only one inch of rain resulted from the storm. Before the storm, a lot of corn was harvested earlier than desired in order to avoid wind damage.



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**WEATHER  
&  
CROPS**



**Week Of: September 1 - 7, 2008**

**Number: 26**

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**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2008**

Tropical Storm Hanna brought rain to most of the Commonwealth. Central and northern Virginia reported the heaviest rainfall, between 4 to 7 inches. The eastern part of the State reported around one inch of rain fall. However, the south western counties saw little to no rain. Days suitable for field work were 5.6. Wind damage from the tropical storm was minimal. Overall, crop conditions improved with the precipitation. Late planted soybeans, cotton, and peanuts should benefit most from the recent rains. Prior to the storm, farmers harvested corn as quick as possible to avoid potential losses. Pastures have begun to green up and in some counties there is hope for another hay crop. Other farming activities included spraying for worms, harvesting tobacco, and laying plastic for strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 7, 2008	5	20	67	8
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	10	21	47	22	0
Livestock	2	5	27	58	8
Hay, Other	9	28	45	17	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	13	41	40	6
Corn	12	22	26	28	12
Soybeans	14	24	36	23	3
Tobacco, Flue-cured	8	20	27	34	11
Tobacco, Burley	0	5	23	63	9
Peanuts	0	10	40	44	6
Cotton	0	19	40	35	6
Apples, All	0	0	21	76	3
Grapes	0	1	13	79	7

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	95	90	99	96
Corn Dent	87	73	93	83
Corn Mature	64	38	72	58
Corn Harvested for Grain	10	2	14	11
Corn Silage Harvested	56	41	64	60
Soybeans Blooming	96	93	99	99
Soybeans Setting Pods	85	78	91	90
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	7	1	6	9
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	32	30	52	51
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	27	12	21	34
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured Harvested	62	56	NA	NA
Cotton Bolls Opening	31	18	63	60
Summer Apples Harvested	90	83	100	100
Fall Apples Harvested	16	13	24	37
Peaches Harvested	98	89	100	100
Oats for Grain Harvested	94	84	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF August 31 – September 6, 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 Sept 6	Mar. 1 to Sept 6 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	61	90	57	73	2	3145	3140	1.24	1.24	0.54	21.00	-9.43
Norfolk	86	67	93	61	76	1	3687	3460	0.95	0.95	0.11	22.76	-10.22
Richmond	88	64	94	60	76	2	3625	3392	2.49	2.49	1.74	37.24	6.47
Roanoke	85	64	90	60	75	3	3323	NA	0.80	0.80	0.04	26.25	-3.92
Wash/Dulles	87	62	93	56	75	3	3149	NA	5.42	5.42	4.65	36.07	6.99

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

##### CLARKE (Jake Grove)

Rains from the tropical storm delivered much needed moisture to late planted crops and pasture. The winds did minimal damage to crops but some lodging was reported.

##### CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Three to 4 inches of rain improved soil conditions and helped late soybeans and fall forage growth.

##### PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

Five and a half to seven inches of rain was received with Tropical Storm Hanna.

#### CENTRAL

##### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Appomattox received over 5 inches of rain Friday night through mid-day Saturday. Rain was heavy at times with much runoff. Many ponds appear almost filled again. Grass immediately responded to the moisture with quick greening. Fertilizer for stockpiling is very evident. Soybean harvest started last week for the earlier maturity groups.

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Many areas of the county received four or more inches of rain from Hanna. Pastures and hayfields are already greening up. If temperatures stay moderate we may get another cutting of hay before frost. Most corn producers made a great effort to harvest grain before the storm. Over a quarter of the harvest was brought in last week. Full season soybeans look fair. Double-crop beans may have time to recover some yield potential and put on some more pods before frost due to the much improved moisture conditions. Fall vegetable crops and winter grain planting conditions are much improved. Strawberry producers are laying beds for plastic culture and readying strawberry plugs for next years crop.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Approximately 1 to 1.5 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Hanna greatly helped the soybean crop. Earlier in the week many acres of soybeans were sprayed for various worms including the corn earworm, armyworm and loopers. This year is the worst year we have had for worms in soybeans for many, many years, maybe as many as 10 or 12. Most fields have already been sprayed at least once. Tomato picking continued. Spraying for disease and insects in lima beans and snap beans continued with intensive field scouting for all crops. Crops need more moisture. What we received will help temporarily but more is needed in the next week. The corn and soybean crop will be harvested late. We also need a late frost due to the late planting of double cropped soybeans.

##### KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Tropical Storm Hanna brought much needed rain. It was too late for a lot of the soybeans. Pasture conditions were very dry prior to the rain over the weekend.

##### NEW KENT (Paul Davis)

Activities included picking corn and spraying corn earworms in soybeans. Most of the area received 1.5-2.5 inches of rain from Hanna, with little to no wind damage.