

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA (Robyn D. Whittington)**

Grain corn harvest has begun. Some early varieties are yielding surprisingly well, but the remainder of the corn crop looks dismal. Early maturity soybeans have dropped the majority of their leaves. DC beans are in terrible need of rain. Many beef producers are feeding hay.

**BEDFORD (Scott Baker)**

Spotty showers have brought some relief to certain areas of the county, but overall conditions continue to deteriorate due to lack of rain and high temperatures. Many livestock producers are feeding hay and grain. There are also concerns about water resources if the present conditions persist.

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Another very dry week has continued to stress pastures, hayfields and soybeans. We have had virtually no rain. Soybeans are the main crop that is still at risk of major yield decrease. Corn, hayfields, and pastures don't have much hope of recovering this season. The soybean situation is not good. If we don't get more rain, the bean pods that have been set will not fill and flowering and podding in late planted beans will be reduced or even stop. We may be looking at soybean losses in excess of 50-60% of the crop. Some farmers are evaluating alternative uses (such as hay) for soybeans that are showing little bean yield potential. Farmers are scouting and spraying for corn earworm and aphids in soybeans, harvesting corn, and getting ready to plant small grains.

**SOUTHERN**

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

Conditions continue to deteriorate as we experienced another week with no rain and consistent high temperatures. Soybeans have not filled pods and we anticipate that most of them will end up being cut for hay. Corn is lacking kernel counts. Some flue-cured tobacco is beginning to be stripped and burley harvest is nearing completion. Hay and pasture land look barren. Producers continue to feed winter hay supplies.

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Hot, dry winds and no rain have dried up pastures, decreased hay meadows, and matured corn. Water is becoming an issue with springs drying and streams at extreme low levels. Some feeding is occurring and early weaning and/or marketing of calves is the norm for this late summer drought.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)**

Excessive temperatures continue to take a toll on forage and crop production and have been extremely hard on livestock. Rain received last week was once again very spotty. Winter feed supplies continue to be utilized to feed livestock because pastures are very unproductive.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week of: Sep. 3 - 9, 2007**

**Number: 27**

**Released: Sep. 10, 2007**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 9, 2007**

Conditions remained hot and dry for another consecutive week in the Commonwealth. Days suitable for work were 6.9. Topsoil moisture was generally short. Pastures and hayfields continue to diminish in condition. Winter hay stocks continue to be fed to livestock. Cattle are being marketed at much higher numbers than normal for this time of year. Many producers have culled their herd to ease the strain on feed stocks. Corn is the only crop presently benefiting from the hot and dry conditions as dry down continues. The grain corn harvest continues. Producers who planted early varieties are reporting better than expected yields in some areas. Soybeans are in need of precipitation to continue filling the pods that are already set. Some flue-cured tobacco is beginning to be stripped, and burley harvest is nearing completion in some areas. Other activities this week include scouting and spraying for corn ear worm and aphids in soybeans, getting ready to plant small grains, and preparing for strawberry planting.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 9, 2007	38	51	11	0
September 2, 2007	21	43	35	1
August 26, 2007	25	36	36	3
August 19, 2007	31	46	20	3
August 12, 2007	27	46	27	0



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**The Census Is Coming!**

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	33	33	29	5	0
Livestock	3	12	32	44	9
Other Hay	35	30	30	5	0
Alfalfa Hay	18	28	33	19	2
Corn	22	39	24	14	1
Soybeans	15	33	34	18	0
Flue-Cured Tobacco	7	19	47	27	0
Burley Tobacco	4	27	48	14	7
Cotton	1	36	42	21	0
All Apples	1	9	33	52	5
Grapes	0	0	15	81	4

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Sep. 9	Mar. 1 to Sep. 9 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	61	92	55	75	5	3377	3162	0.00	-0.84	-0.97	27.52	-3.05
Norfolk	85	66	87	64	75	0	3678	3486	0.00	-0.97	NA	24.25	-8.96
Richmond	88	64	91	59	76	3	3735	3417	0.00	-0.90	NA	29.06	-2.18
Roanoke	90	63	93	60	77	6	3699	NA	0.00	-0.90	-0.99	20.58	-9.68
Wash/Dulles	91	65	94	57	78	7	3426	NA	0.00	-0.91	NA	17.66	-11.77

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86<sup>o</sup>) + daily minimum (50<sup>o</sup>))/2-50<sup>o</sup>; where 86<sup>o</sup> is used if the maximum exceeds 86<sup>o</sup> and 50<sup>o</sup> is used if the minimum falls below 50<sup>o</sup>.  
 \* 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

##### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Another hot and dry week caused further deterioration of the soybean, pasture, and hay crops. Almost all of the soybean acreage has been treated for corn earworm this year. Corn harvest continued with very poor yields of 25-50 bushels per acre was commonly reported. Some hay was harvested during the week.

##### NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Corn harvest continued this week with yields generally ranging from 15 -100 bushels per acre. A second invasion of corn earworm forced many farmers to spray soybeans with insecticides for a second time. Low yields are allowing corn harvest to move along quickly, and farmers are beginning to prepare newly-harvested fields for the upcoming small grain crop.

##### WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

Dry and hot weather continues. Though it is good for corn harvest, it isn't good for soybeans trying to fill pods. Corn harvest continued with reported yields in the 10-90 bushel range. Soybeans had been looking better with the August rains, but have had none in September and plants are looking much stressed again. Many fields have been sprayed for worms. A few fields of hay were cut, but with very minimal growth. A few late vegetables are still being harvested. Fall crops that have been irrigated look decent.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Record or near-record high temperatures coupled with no precipitation are deepening the drought situation for all crops. Forecasted cooler temperatures and rain this week may help some, but create issues for harvesting as well.

##### WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)

Drought conditions persist in Wythe County. Pastures are nonproductive, and most producers are using their winter stocks of feed now. Cattle are being marketed in much higher numbers than normal for this time of year, with many producers culling cows to reduce the pressure on their feed stocks. Hay production for this county was off by 50% on the first cutting, and the second and third cuttings have been as low as 20%. Many fields that would normally be used for second cutting hay were used for emergency pasture. Hay being purchased locally is virtually nonexistent. Producers are looking at outside sources and alternative feeds to provide roughage for their livestock through the fall and winter. Many streams and ponds have dried up, and producers are looking for alternative water sources for their livestock. Corn for silage yields will vary greatly throughout the county, but is expected to average 50% of the normal yield. Samples that were taken in corn fields with stunted growth show high levels of nitrates. We will continue to monitor.

#### SOUTHEASTERN

##### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn harvest is under way this week. Farmers are almost caught up on soybean insecticidal sprays. Good weather this week for cutting hay. A storm off the Atlantic coast is likely to bring much needed rain early next week.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	95	88	86	84
Corn Mature	77	60	65	62
Corn For Grain Harvested	18	4	15	16
Corn Silage Harvested	67	56	68	63
Soybeans Setting Pods	92	89	94	92
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	8	2	17	12
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	55	45	46	51
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	23	17	46	45
Cotton Bolls Opening	68	50	75	60
Fall Apples Harvested	25	20	34	41