

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Showers this past week helped late season crops improve slightly. Corn harvest was well underway, with yields from 20 to 100 bushels per acre.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn harvest was just getting underway this week a bit later this year due to replanting of corn and late start for most corn in the spring. Yields are highly variable from 50-150 bu. average. Soybeans have not set many pods with dry summer. No major problems with worms this year. Recent rain has helped soil moisture conditions this week. Strawberry farmers are busy this week laying down their plastic beds and fumigating.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Strawberry farmers were applying fumigants and laying down plastic in preparation for planting later this month. Much needed rain early in the week helped late season beans but slowed corn harvest for 2 days.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: September 8 - 14, 2008

Number: 27

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Virginia received isolated rain showers this week. The rain improved pasture and hay conditions. In some areas, the rain will contribute to a second cutting of hay. Days suitable for field work were 5.2. The corn harvest was well underway, but still behind the norm for this time of year. Wet fields from Tropical Storm Hanna and a cooler than normal spring contributed to the late harvest. Corn yields vary significantly due to location and time of planting. However, the forecasted State yield for corn is 104 bushels per acre. Other farming activities included planting winter wheat, planting strawberries, harvesting tobacco, harvesting pumpkins, attending meetings, and analyzing price input cost for next year's crop.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 14, 2008	5	19	68	8
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	23	42	25	2
Livestock	1	4	23	62	10
Hay, Other	5	27	37	27	4
Hay, Alfalfa	0	14	31	45	10
Corn	11	22	26	27	14
Soybeans	9	17	38	28	8
Tobacco, Flue-cured	2	16	32	29	21
Tobacco, Burley	0	4	22	65	9
Peanuts	0	12	45	34	9
Cotton	0	19	48	25	8
Apples, All	0	1	22	71	6
Grapes	0	3	16	68	13

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	92	87	99	89
Corn Mature	77	64	83	70
Corn Harvested for Grain	16	10	25	20
Corn Silage Harvested	64	56	76	71
Soybeans Setting Pods	97	85	95	96
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	15	7	14	17
Winter Wheat Planted	6	NA	1	2
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	37	32	66	61
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	36	27	40	52
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured Harvested	90	62	NA	NA
Cotton Bolls Opening	54	31	78	70
Summer Apples Harvested	98	90	100	100
Fall Apples Harvested	19	16	33	46

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF September 7 - 13, 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 13	Mar. 1 to Sept 13 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	62	93	49	74	0	3295	3275	0.10	1.34	-0.23	21.10	-9.92
Norfolk	85	71	92	65	78	1	3874	3618	3.31	4.26	2.47	26.07	-7.78
Richmond	88	66	96	61	77	1	3802	3535	0.57	3.06	1.39	37.81	6.04
Roanoke	85	64	92	54	74	-1	3475	NA	0.19	0.99	-0.68	26.44	-4.66
Wash/Dulles	85	62	93	56	74	0	3308	NA	0.08	5.50	3.81	36.15	6.28

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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WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly precipitation was 0.19 inches. The daytime temperatures were cooler than normal half of the week, while evening temperatures were warmer than normal.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture conditions are much improved. Most of the county received about 4-5 inches of rain from Hanna. Corn producers have resumed harvesting corn in accessible areas. Corn yields have been moderate from 100 to 115 bushels in non-irrigated fields. Soybeans are putting on a second round of growth since the recent rains. Hopefully we will have a warm fall and will regain some yield potential that was lost due to the earlier lack of rain. Vegetable farmers are finishing up the tomato, pepper, eggplant, and melon harvest; as well as scouting pumpkins and greens for insects and disease. Strawberry producers are getting ready to plant next year's crop.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Scattered storms are helping to maintain surface moisture levels and crop growth, especially for soybeans. Corn harvest has started, with yields of 45 to 50 bushels reported. The yields will vary due to scattered storms. Scouting continues for insects in the soybean fields. Fields were still being sprayed for worms. Farmers were ordering wheat seed, harvesting corn, spraying for worms in soybeans and scouting in limas and snap beans. Tomato picking continues. Farmers were working on harvesting equipment and planting equipment, attending meetings and pricing inputs for fall crops.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Webb Flowers)

There was a light rain early this week with warm dry weather later in the week.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Additional moisture and overcast skies most of the week slowed silage harvest but dramatically improved pasture and hay. Some farmers are having fall hay cutting to supplement low hay stocks. Tobacco harvest began late this week.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

This was another dry week for the county. There was a second cutting of hay in some areas. Most corn is nearing maturity. Pastures are still looking good, but will definitely need more rain to sustain fall grazing. Primo cane raspberries are coming in nicely. Pumpkins were being harvested.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Spotty showers have been useful, however the county as a whole is lacking. Corn silage that has been harvested is short and yielding well below normal.