



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: Sept 11-Sept 17, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

The Commonwealth experienced another week of adequate rainfall and cool temperatures. Days suitable for field work this week were 4.5. Average precipitation across the state was slightly over one inch. Temperatures were cooler than normal, with an average high of 82 degrees. Hay and pasture land has benefited the most from the recent rains. Both hay and pasture conditions have improved and fall grazing potential looks good in many areas. Corn harvest continued this week, but has been slow due to wet fields and corn that was blown down by the tropical storm. Reported corn yields continue to be good to excellent. Soybeans and tobacco have also improved due to the increase in moisture. Producers continue to monitor pest problems in soybeans, as well as closely monitoring reports of soybean rust in the Carolinas. Reporters say the condition of tobacco remaining in the field is good, but the wet weather has made burley tobacco hard to cure in some areas. Vegetable harvests are almost complete. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins remain to be harvested. Farmers are preparing for peanut harvest and cotton defoliation to be in full swing. Other farm activities this week included building fences, cutting wood for winter heat, and preparing land for fall harvest and small grain planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 20, 2006	21	35	43	1
August 27, 2006	36	41	23	0
September 3, 2006	2	7	68	23
September 10, 2006	3	9	75	13
September 17, 2006	2	6	83	9

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	80	54	64	-5	0.77	0.00	6
Warrenton	81	57	65	-5	1.05	0.28	5
Winchester 7 SE	81	52	63	-4	0.91	0.20	5
Dale Enterprises	79	51	62	-5	0.59	-0.18	3
WESTERN							
Glasgow	83	54	66	-3	0.70	-0.03	3
Roanoke AP	81	55	66	-3	0.94	0.15	3
Waynesboro	79	51	63	-3	0.15	-0.62	1
Staunton AG	80	54	63	-2	0.84	0.07	3
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	82	53	65	-5	1.09	0.18	6
Piedmont Res ST	82	57	66	-3	0.99	0.19	4
Bremo Bluff	87	55	68	-2	0.45	-0.32	3
Richmond AP	87	58	70	-2	1.55	0.78	3
EASTERN							
Eastville	83	57	68	-4	0.94	0.17	4
Wallops Island	82	52	68	-6	1.09	0.38	3
Williamsburg	80	54	67	-5	0.91	-0.12	4
Keysville	83	57	66	-3	1.40	0.56	2
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	78	49	62	-3	0.96	0.16	3
Wytheville	77	47	61	-4	0.72	0.02	2
Saltville	82	51	65	-2	0.73	-0.04	2
Richlands	80	52	64	4	0.60	-0.17	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	80	56	66	-2	2.20	1.15	3
Danville AG	85	59	68	-4	2.98	2.21	3
Chatham	82	54	65	-3	2.30	1.42	4
Martinsville	81	52	65	-3	2.08	1.17	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	80	58	71	-3	0.31	-0.60	4
Oceana	84	56	71	-4	0.53	-0.54	4
Emporia	86	56	69	-1	1.02	0.14	3
Newport News	84	53	70	-3	1.10	0.19	4

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of September 11-September 17, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	4	18	37	34	7
Livestock	1	4	24	59	12
Other Hay	4	21	40	29	6
Alfalfa Hay	2	15	35	35	13
Corn	2	9	31	42	16
Soybeans	2	10	46	36	6
Flue-cured Tobacco	1	5	43	37	14
Burley Tobacco	0	1	12	57	30
Peanuts	0	7	37	30	26
Cotton	0	11	27	43	19
All Apples	0	2	47	50	1
Grapes	0	1	19	80	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	92	87	88	90
Corn Mature	75	67	71	71
Corn Grain Harvested	21	17	18	28
Corn Silage Harvested	75	70	78	71
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	21	18	29	20
Soybeans Harvested	1	0	0	0
Winter Wheat Seeded	3	2	2	3
Barley Seeded	11	2	14	7
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	50	47	61	67
Burley Tobacco Harvested	56	49	70	71
Peanuts Dug	7	0	0	4
Cotton Bolls Opening	82	79	83	60
Cotton Harvested	1	0	0	1
Fall Apples Harvested	41	35	68	48
Winter Apples Harvested	18	15	3	11

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Tim Mize):

Rains in September have restored local pastures. Producers that fertilized for stockpiling in August have seen an excellent response the last few weeks. Fall grazing looks good. Harvested silage tonnage has been good, although corn grain in the silage has been lower than normal on some farms.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Yearling cattle and lambs continue to be marketed. Chief activities included fence building, hay making, and cutting winter's heating wood.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

Rains continue and are certainly welcome. Harvesting and fall planting are slightly delayed at this time. Forage growth has begun to increase rapidly with moisture and continued warm weather.

AMHERST COUNTY (William W. Seay):

Recent rains have started forages to growing again. Late hay harvest will be possible.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are harvesting corn for grain, and scouting soybeans for corn earworm in late-planted beans. We are following reports of soybean rust in the Carolinas very carefully as a large part of the double-crop beans are still at risk.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Losses due to tropical storm Ernesto were 15% for corn, no loss for soybeans, 20 percent for fall staked tomatoes, 30 percent for cotton (only one grower) and 35 percent for snapbeans. Corn harvest will be slow because some corn was blown down. Yields appear to be good. Soybean crop was helped by heavy rains from storm. The rain probably added to a better yield since we were in a drought. Soybean yield should be average or better. 8.6 inches of rain was received in several places and 13 inches at one location. Water went into soil or ran off and growers were in fields working pretty soon.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Corn harvest is in full swing now. Mid-week showers slowed harvest some. Corn yields continue to be good to excellent. Down corn also slows harvest. Soybeans are dropping leaves. The soybean crop improved due to rain from the hurricane. Much of the late beans were treated for corn earworm. Some barley is being planted. Stalk shredding, soil sampling and land prep continues. Vegetables are almost gone. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins remain to be harvested.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):

Rains this week slowed harvest again. Many fields will be too wet for equipment traffic for a week or more, and farmers are therefore forced to choose well-drained fields for harvest. Farmers are continuing to monitor late-planted soybeans for pest activity, but the great focus is on corn harvest and preparations for the upcoming small grain planting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

More rain this week slowed field work. Some corn harvest took place, with yield reports in the 100-140 range. Farmers are still monitoring soybeans for worms and diseases. The storm seems to have gotten some of the worms; they are not as heavy as before. Some vegetable harvest continues. It has been too wet for haying. Pastures and hay improved with moisture.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

With only one day of rain this past week, most farmers were trying to catch up with delayed activities. The silage choppers are being readied for, what appears to be, an excellent corn crop.

SMYTH COUNTY (Walter Robinson):

Rains have been timely and it has been a while since I have seen pastures and hay fields this lush at this time of year.