

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

CENTRAL

AMHERST (Bruce Jones)

Appomattox county received approximately 1 inch of light, steady rainfall late last week. The rain fell perfectly with very little runoff. Conditions were so dry however that farmers were able to continue land preparation for fall planting within 24 hours. Windy conditions aided the drying. Some late soybeans continue to bloom but time may be the limiting factor now. Cattle producers continue to feed a limited hay stock and continue to cull at increased rates.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soybean fields are showing increased stress as moisture continues to be very scarce. Late planted beans are aborting flowers and beans. Full season beans are not filling well. Pastures and hayfields are green but not showing much growth. Temperatures have decreased from earlier highs but steady widespread rains have not materialized. Last week's rains from Humberto only amounted to approximately four tenths of an inch which is all the rain we have seen since the third week of August. Farmers are harvesting corn, planting small grain crops, and preparing to harvest soybeans. Scouting for insects and diseases in soybeans continues.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The county got about an inch of rain Friday night, which helped peanuts and late planted soybeans fill out. Corn harvest is well underway with a wide range of yields. Some cotton is being defoliated.



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NORTHERN

FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Cooler weather and increased rainfall have revived cool season pastures. More producers are stockpiling forages for the fall to offset the reduced hay production. Corn and soybean yields vary across the county but most producers are seeing significant yield reductions. Spring born calves are lighter than normal for this time of the year.

WESTERN

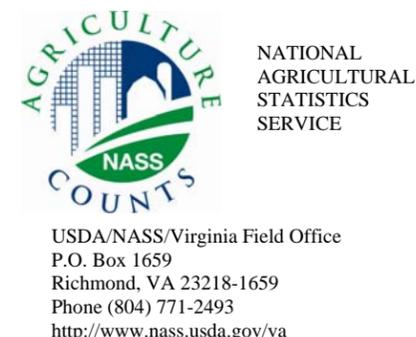
HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Two days of rain shower kept conditions from deteriorating further. Grasses were revived and streams increased flow rates. Most producers have given up on second-cutting hay and have used it or plan to use it for fall grazing. Lamb marketing and calves weaning are the chief farm activities.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Rain at week's end was a welcome sight in the county. Flue cured tobacco harvest is nearing completion but is delayed due to the inability of the plant to ripen. Many producers have begun using artificial yellowing chemicals. Burley harvest should be completed this week. The majority of soybeans will be cut for hay as they are lacking on beans. Pastures appear greener but have not shown any increased growth. Producers still do not anticipate a fall hay cutting. Livestock owners are exploring options for winter feeding. Brokers are bringing some hay into the county.



**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: Sep. 10 - 16, 2007

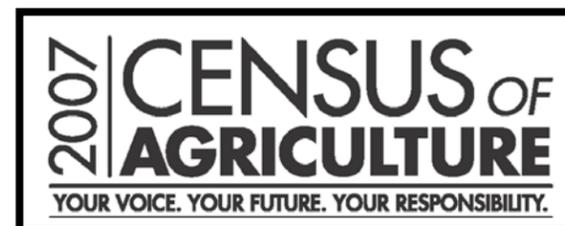
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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

Cooler weather and increased rainfall was experienced by most areas in the state this week. Days suitable for work were 5.8. Topsoil moisture was generally short. Pastures and hayfields remain stunted despite recent precipitation. Livestock sales are continuing with calves being reported as underweight in some areas due to the lack of forage. The corn harvest continues but was set back a day or two because of rainfall. Preexisting dry conditions and a constant wind helped dry fields so farmers could continue harvesting. Yields are still varying vastly across the state. Soybeans remain in a critical stage of production. The recent rainfall is expected to help soybeans fill their pods that have already been set. The tobacco harvest is coming close to an end in some areas. Other activities this week include soybean insecticide applications, soybean scouting, lime applications, soil testing and small grain preparations.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 16, 2007	18	51	31	0
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	23	29	34	14	0
Livestock	2	9	31	50	8
Other Hay	36	31	22	10	1
Alfalfa Hay	11	21	37	27	4
Corn	22	38	26	13	1
Soybeans	14	29	37	20	0
Flue-Cured Tobacco	4	17	62	17	0
Burley Tobacco	4	23	49	17	7
Peanuts	0	17	66	17	0
Cotton	0	30	44	26	0
All Apples	0	8	34	49	9
Grapes	0	0	20	70	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	86	77	74	72
Corn For Grain Harvested	28	18	20	25
Corn Silage Harvested	80	67	74	73
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	92	99	98
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	16	8	21	20
Winter Wheat Seeded	2	NA	3	3
Barley Seeded	9	NA	10	8
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	71	55	50	60
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	47	23	55	64
Cotton Bolls Opening	82	68	82	69
Fall Apples Harvested	36	25	40	49
Winter Apples Harvested	10	NA	18	12

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 16, 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. 16	Mar. 1 to Sep. 16 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	83	59	91	48	71	3	3522	3297	1.13	1.16	-0.68	28.65	-2.83
Norfolk	85	70	96	66	78	5	3867	3643	0.09	0.09	-2.16	24.34	-9.94
Richmond	86	64	93	54	75	4	3902	3559	1.11	1.11	-0.83	30.17	-1.92
Roanoke	82	63	92	50	72	3	3853	NA	1.04	1.05	-0.89	21.62	-9.71
Wash/Dulles	81	61	91	47	71	2	3570	NA	0.81	0.81	-1.11	18.47	-11.80

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

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Corn moisture levels are still high so harvest has been delayed. Soybeans are in trouble due to dry weather. Yields will be off significantly in many areas and extra expenses were incurred due to spraying for the corn earworm and other insects. Corn yields are about 30 to 35 percent overall. Much wheat will be planted this fall and the cost of seed has already gone up due to the increased demand. Farmers are somewhat depressed due to poor yields and wondering if they will be able to fill contracts.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers were busy harvesting corn and chopping corn stalks during the week. Poor corn yields are allowing the crop to be harvested at a fast pace. We continue to find low levels of corn earworm in soybeans, and few fields were retreated during the week. Some hay was also cut, and yields remain well below average. Rainfall during the week helped restore topsoil moisture and should help soybeans, pastures, and hay fields. However, these crops have suffered significant yield loss from the 2007 drought.

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Continued lack of rainfall is taking its toll on soybeans. Full season beans are now yellowing and dropping leaves. DC beans had great potential about two weeks ago, but really need rain now to produce decently by frost. Corn harvest continues and will reach full swing this week. Moisture levels continue to drop. Yields for dry land corn range from 50-120. We have had no measurable rain in September. Many acres were sprayed for corn earworm and some were sprayed twice. Farm activities this week include, haymaking, corn harvest, soybean insecticide applications, soybean scouting, lime applications, soil testing and small grain planting decision making. Vegetable harvest is about over. Some squash, melons and tomatoes are still being harvested. Sweet potato harvest is underway.

EASTERN (continued)

NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Corn harvest continued last week. Yields seem to be averaging around 70-80 bushels per acre. Late-week rains fell just in time to improve soybean yields. Many farmers are preparing fields for small-grain planting and working hard to find wheat seed, which is in short supply. Most farmers are continuing to work closely with grain merchandisers and crop insurance adjustors to address grain contracts and insurance issues associated with drought-impacted corn fields.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

A couple of showers this week perked up soybeans and pastures and slowed corn harvest. Rainfall averaged maybe over an inch across the area, it will help fill the pods on some stressed soybeans. Corn harvest continued between showers. Yields in the 10-90 bushel range continue. A few worm problems in some late soybeans were treated. Some late vegetable harvest continued.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The region received around 1" of rain which was very beneficial, but is a little bit too late for corn recovery. Rain will boost recovery of pasture and hayfields if we get more precipitation soon.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rainfall has again caused pastures to green up and attempt to grow. Vegetable harvests remain in full swing, with some concern over softening market prices. Beef cattle are being sold at a much higher rate than previous years, with many farmers culling cows extremely hard and keeping bred heifers as replacements. Approximately 365 calves were vaccinated and certified for Virginia Quality Assured feeder cattle sales. Sheep farmers were able to enjoy a milestone last week, as they were recognized for sales over \$1,000,000 to the Food City grocery chain. Lack of hay is still the common topic among farmers, with many questions being asked about limits on feeding hay and other alternatives to stretch hay supplies.