

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

Flue cure tobacco harvest continues at a slow pace. Early September rains have caused the crop to "green up" over the last two weeks. Small grain and grass seedings have made good progress this week as soil conditions allowed field work to start. Pasture and hay has made surprising growth over the last two weeks. The additional growth will help stretch feed supplies by supplying "normal fall grazing". It will not close the gap in the anticipated feed shortage for this winter.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are trimming field borders around soybean fields and getting harvesting equipment ready for soybean harvest. Soybean producers are scouting for insect and disease problems in late-planted fields. No major problems have been found. Corn grain harvest is in full swing with good yields reported for early planted corn. Pastures and hayfields are recovering from mid-summer drought. Soybeans have recovered somewhat but yields will probably be significantly reduced in double-crop soybeans planted after wheat and barley.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Farmers are harvesting corn at a slow pace due to tropical storm. Yields are average or better. Some farmers getting 98 percent of lodged crop but in more severe situations losses are up to 25 percent. Late season soybeans are growing very good due to storm's heavy rains. Farmers are happy about falling fuel prices, lower fall fertilizer cost and next year's wheat contracts. Tomato picking continues. Yields are fairly good and prices much higher than a few weeks ago. Farmers have been attending meetings, working on harvest equipment, ordering wheat seed and fertilizer and soil testing.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Corn harvest is continuing. Producers had several good days this week. Corn continues to dry down, but we have not had real good drying weather so far. Yields still remain good to excellent. Early soybeans are beginning to really drop leaves

now. Double crop beans look very good due to the rains in the past weeks. Land prep continues for small grain planting. Soil sampling, liming, and stalk shredding continue.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

Drier weather sped up corn harvest this week. Mostly fair to good yields have been reported. Harvest is slow in some fields due to lodging from Ernesto. Soybeans are continuing to fill pods with good soil moisture. Some early beans are starting to lose leaves. Problems with insects have subsided since the rains. Some hay harvest continues. Some late vegetable harvest continues.

GRAYSON COUNTY (Kevin Spurlin):

Producers are cutting corn silage and selling calves.

LEE COUNTY (Harold Jerrell):

Lee County received 5.4" of rainfall for the past week.

SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):

This year's silage harvest is under way, though weekend rains will delay chopping this week. Grain corn testing last week averages 200-209 bushel per acre. Vegetable harvests are slowing, and strawberries have been planted.

SMYTH COUNTY (Walter Robinson):

The scattered frost Wednesday night will probably put a rush on crop harvesting and cattle marketing.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Some late cutting hay is being worked on now. Corn silage looked very good for several folks. Soybeans are beginning to drop leaves. Folks are curing flue tobacco as quickly as possible. Fall calving herds are calving heifers now. The State Fair is just around the corner. Fall and winter meetings are being planned and advertised for various commodity producers in the county and area as well.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: Sept 18-Sept 24, 2006

Number: 29

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

It was a dry week for most of the Commonwealth. The south western region was the exception with about 1 inch of rain. The average temperature for the State continued to decrease with autumn officially beginning. Virginia's average temperature was 65 degrees, slightly cooler than normal for this time of year. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. The dry weather contributed to the progress made with the corn harvest and barley planting. Farmers are experiencing favorable corn yields, similar to last year. The outlooks on double crop beans and the hay crop were divided. Some farmers anticipated low yields due to the dry summer conditions, while others expected improvement due to the rains provided by tropical storm Ernesto. Overall, farmers are optimistic with falling fuel prices, lower fall fertilizer costs, and next year's wheat contracts. Other farm activities for the week included scouting for insect and disease problems, preparing land for small grain planting, liming fields, sampling soils, and selling calves.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
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
September 24, 2006	1	9	80	10

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	83	41	63	-4	0.02	-0.75	1
Warrenton	82	45	64	-3	0.04	-0.73	2
Winchester 7 SE	83	41	63	-2	0.04	-0.66	2
Dale Enterprises	80	43	62	-3	0.09	-0.68	4
WESTERN							
Glasgow	85	41	65	-1	0.08	-0.69	1
Roanoke AP	84	42	67	1	0.00	-0.79	0
Waynesboro	82	50	64	2	0.00	-0.82	0
Staunton AG	79	43	63	1	0.02	-0.80	2
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	82	40	65	-3	0.03	-0.93	2
Piedmont Res ST	83	43	64	-3	0.00	-0.82	0
Bremo Bluff	87	44	67	0	0.00	-0.77	0
Richmond AP	87	50	70	3	0.07	-0.70	1
EASTERN							
Eastville	84	51	69	-2	0.02	-0.71	1
Wallops Island	84	47	68	-3	0.30	-0.40	1
Williamsburg	87	49	69	0	0.31	-0.65	2
Keysville	84	44	66	-2	0.30	-0.54	1
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	81	36	60	-2	0.02	-0.82	1
Wytheville	81	32	59	-4	0.39	-0.34	2
Saltville	83	38	62	-2	1.03	0.26	4
Richlands	82	40	61	4	1.10	0.33	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	85	45	66	1	0.00	-1.05	0
Danville AG	88	47	67	-2	0.00	-0.80	0
Chatham	83	41	63	-3	0.00	-0.91	0
Martinsville	83	41	63	-3	0.00	-0.91	0
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	85	51	71	1	0.06	-0.82	1
Oceana	86	48	72	-1	0.07	-0.91	2
Emporia	86	48	68	2	0.12	-0.72	1
Newport News	86	48	71	2	0.09	-0.79	2

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of September 18-September 24, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	3	14	36	37	10
Livestock	0	5	24	58	13
Other Hay	3	14	34	39	10
Alfalfa Hay	1	8	34	45	12
Corn	2	8	32	43	15
Soybeans	2	12	43	37	6
Peanuts	0	7	28	35	30
Cotton	0	13	30	35	22
All Apples	0	4	37	56	3
Grapes	0	0	10	90	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	88	75	85	80
Corn Grain Harvested	32	21	32	37
Corn Silage Harvested	84	75	90	82
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	37	21	46	33
Soybeans Harvested	2	1	2	2
Winter Wheat Seeded	6	3	4	6
Barley Seeded	23	11	21	13
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	67	50	73	76
Burley Tobacco Harvested	82	56	86	85
Peanuts Dug	18	7	8	14
Peanuts Combined	5	0	3	4
Cotton Bolls Opening	91	82	92	70
Cotton Harvested	2	1	4	4
Fall Apples Harvested	50	41	72	57
Winter Apples Harvested	25	18	7	18