



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: Sept 25-Oct 1, 2006

Number: 30

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 1, 2006

Cool temperatures and adequate rainfall were welcomed across the Commonwealth this week. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. The state received normal precipitation, and temperatures were cooler than normal with an average high of 82 degrees. The average low temperature this week was 44 degrees. Weather conditions have been excellent for calving and lambing. Livestock across the state is reported to be in good condition. Rains and cool temperatures have been beneficial to pasture and hay conditions which continue to improve. Corn harvest continued this week, slowed slightly by the damage done by Ernesto. Corn yields are reported to be good to excellent in most areas. Soybean conditions have improved, but reporters feel that yield potential was significantly reduced by the dry conditions in July and August. Most vegetables have been harvested. Tomato, pumpkin, and sweet potato harvests continue. The pumpkin crop was also adversely affected by the summer drought conditions, raising some concerns about yields. Peanut digging has begun, but reported yields have not been promising. Other farm activities this week included planting small grains, sampling soils, repairing fences, and planting strawberries.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
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
October 1, 2006	2	5	85	8

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 1, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	79	40	58	-5	0.59	-0.18	3
Warrenton	80	44	61	-3	0.59	-0.18	2
Winchester 7 SE	80	39	59	-3	0.48	-0.22	3
Dale Enterprises	73	41	58	-5	0.63	-0.09	3
WESTERN							
Glasgow	85	44	61	-3	3.47	2.70	4
Roanoke AP	81	42	61	-3	0.80	-0.04	3
Waynesboro	79	41	59	-1	0.98	0.14	3
Staunton AG	76	40	58	-2	0.74	-0.10	3
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	82	41	61	-5	0.66	-0.32	2
Piedmont Res ST	83	45	62	-2	1.72	0.88	3
Bremo Bluff	91	43	65	2	0.67	-0.16	3
Richmond AP	89	48	68	3	2.13	1.36	3
EASTERN							
Eastville	83	53	67	-1	0.58	-0.11	2
Wallops Island	85	47	65	-5	0.35	-0.29	3
Williamsburg	80	48	65	-3	0.48	-0.40	4
Keysville	84	43	62	-3	1.25	0.35	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	76	37	56	-3	1.12	0.28	3
Wytheville	72	37	54	-6	1.00	0.23	3
Saltville	72	41	57	-4	1.35	0.58	3
Richlands	71	39	56	2	1.38	0.62	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	82	43	61	-3	0.45	-0.56	4
Danville AG	85	45	63	-4	0.29	-0.55	2
Chatham	83	40	60	-3	0.93	0.02	3
Martinsville	85	40	61	-2	0.38	-0.53	5
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	89	52	67	-1	1.2	0.38	2
Oceana	90	49	67	-3	1.26	0.38	3
Emporia	87	46	65	1	0.84	0.02	3
Newport News	90	50	69	1	1.41	0.59	5

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

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

WEATHER & CROPS

Week Of September 25-October 1, 2006

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	2	13	39	38	8
Livestock	0	7	27	56	10
Other Hay	4	21	39	33	3
Alfalfa Hay	2	10	40	43	5
Corn	2	10	34	43	11
Soybeans	6	16	44	31	3
Peanuts	0	10	34	28	28
Cotton	0	13	28	34	25
All Apples	0	7	27	66	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	94	88	95	86
Corn Grain Harvested	49	32	43	48
Corn Silage Harvested	91	84	96	90
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	54	37	65	47
Soybeans Harvested	3	2	7	4
Winter Wheat Seeded	10	6	9	10
Winter Wheat Emerged	1	0	0	2
Barley Seeded	39	23	30	22
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	85	67	81	84
Burley Tobacco Harvested	89	82	95	94
Peanuts Dug	22	18	20	27
Peanuts Combined	18	5	10	12
Cotton Bolls Opening	96	91	95	77
Cotton Harvested	7	2	9	9
Fall Apples Harvested	85	50	75	66
Winter Apples Harvested	25	25	14	26

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Tim Mize):

Pasture conditions remain good in most locations. The county has had excellent weather for fall calving and lambing. Corn harvest yields look to be very good. The apple crop appears average.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Early frost has yet to occur, keeping pastures and hay meadows in a growing state. This is a blessing for producers short on hay and should hold off feeding till November or later. Producers are harvesting calves and lambs, repairing fences, and cutting wood.



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REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Corn harvest is continuing between rain showers. Corn yields have been moderate to good (100 to 160+ bushels). Late-planted corn did not do well in this area. Soybeans have shown some improvement, but a lot of late planted, double-crop beans have a significantly reduced yield potential due to the dry weather in July and August. Farmers are harvesting corn, planting small grains and getting ready to begin the soybean harvest. Some early-maturing soybeans are already being harvested.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Corn yields are average or better. Late beans were damaged by the late summer drought. Farmers are getting 90% or better of corn blown down by Ernesto. Farmers may plant more wheat due to higher prices and lower fertilizer costs. Tomato harvest is still going on.

KING GEORGE COUNTY (Regina Prunty):

Continued showers have brought improvement to pastures and hay fields. Corn harvest is about finished.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Corn harvest continues. Yields still good to excellent. Producers held some of the "down" fields until the end and are working slowly to harvest them. Some early soybeans have been harvested. Quality is poor due to weather conditions. Quality should improve as harvest moves along. Yields of early harvest beans in 30's. Land prep for small grain planting continues. Most vegetable harvest is over. Pumpkins and sweet potatoes are being harvested. Barley planting continues.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Producers are picking corn, and chopping corn stalks. They are getting ready to plant no-till wheat, getting cover crop and wheat seed delivered, soil sampling, harvesting full season group 3 soybeans, and planting barley.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

Corn harvest continued this week until rains Thursday night slowed field activities. Mostly good yields on corn, but as reported in previous weeks lodging from Ernesto slows harvest. Some hay harvest during week. Some vegetable harvest continues. A short pumpkin crop is being harvested (low set due to heat and drought earlier in the summer).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

Much needed rainfall was received this past week. Dry, warm temperatures forecasted for this week will aid the fall harvesting of most crops.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Cooler, wetter conditions have been prevalent. Cool season grasses are currently growing well in pastures and hayfields. Livestock reaching the markets are of a good quality. Corn silage harvest is progressing well, with yields of about 2-3 tons/acre below last year's harvest.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Jamie Stowe):

Recent rain showers have pasture and hay land looking better. We are seeing decent fall cuttings, although yields are still much lower than normal. Tobacco harvest nears completion.