

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Drought continues with calves being sold early to relieve some pressure on pastures. There is no second cutting of hay because most is being used to supplement pastures. Some hay feeding is occurring in extreme cases.

**NORTHERN**

**CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Drought conditions worsen by the day with forage dependent livestock facing a shortage on pasture due to poor growth. Hay feeding is found in the worst areas. The corn grain harvest progresses quickly with dry down aiding this early start. Barley seeding is active and wheat is soon to follow but is also dependent on seed availability. Livestock drinking water could govern culling decisions without significant rainfall soon. The local government has initiated voluntary water use restrictions.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Dry weather was broken by a heavy rain that varied from .5 to 2.0 inches. Overall, soil remains very dry as heavy rain was concentrated in small area. Sixty percent of the strawberries have been planted. Corn harvest is complete and soybean harvest is under way. Soybeans are rapidly dropping leaves.

**VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)**

Soybeans are really suffering this week. The double crop plants are turning yellow and losing turgidness from lack of moisture. Corn harvest continues with average yields. Fall vegetable crops have failed after several plantings. Strawberry plants are being transplanted this week. Some strawberry plugs will follow next week. Most strawberry farmers are relying on trickle irrigation under the plastic to wet the plant bed plus overhead irrigation for the transplants.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Extremely dry conditions continue. Pastures and hayfields are brown. Only alfalfa is still green, although it's not growing. Farmers are finishing up corn harvest and planting wheat and some barley. Some early planted soybeans have been harvested due to the fact that they are dropping seed. Farmers are scrambling to get into soybean fields before too many beans fall from their pods. Yields on full season soybeans have ranged from the upper 20's to the mid 40's bushels per acre. Vegetable producers are cleaning out the fruit from summer crops like tomatoes, peppers and squash and harvesting pumpkins and winter squash. Next years crop of strawberries has been planted. Winter greens are up and growing. Anyone with livestock is looking for sources of winter feed and judiciously culling their herds.

**ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)**

Fall seeded grass and small grain fields have poor stands because of the dry conditions. Farmers are starting to have water source problems for livestock with springs and small streams drying up. Livestock are being sold early this fall because of the dry conditions. Feed supplies will also be short for this winter with some farmers starting to feed livestock.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER & CROPS**



**Week of: Sep. 24 - 30, 2007**

**Number: 30**

**Released: Oct. 1, 2007**

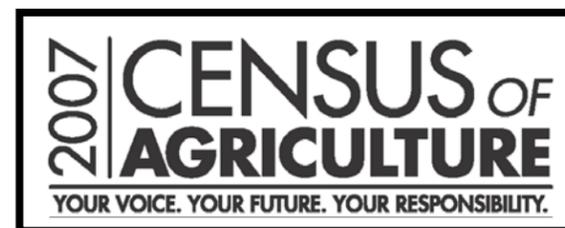
**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

Dry conditions persist again this week across the Commonwealth. Days suitable for work were 6.7. Soil moisture was generally very short. Pastures and hayfields continue to either brown or grow minimally. Livestock herds are continuing to be culled in hopes of relieving feed stress issues. Corn harvest continues this week with varying yields. Late soybeans are in need of precipitation to finish pod development while some early soybeans are now being harvested due to pods beginning to fall. Peanut digging has begun. Cotton harvesting is also under way. Land preparation for winter crops has begun while some farmers have already planted barley and wheat. Strawberry plants are being transplanted this week. Vegetable producers are cleaning out the fruit from summer crops. Other activities this week include stalk shredding, lime application, soil sampling, soybean scouting and some vegetable harvesting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 30, 2007	52	36	12	0
September 23, 2007	46	41	13	0
September 16, 2007	18	51	31	0
September 9, 2007	38	51	11	0
September 2, 2007	21	43	35	1



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	36	35	24	5	0
Livestock	4	14	37	43	2
Other Hay	36	39	21	4	0
Alfalfa Hay	29	25	40	6	0
Corn	24	35	26	13	2
Soybeans	19	32	39	10	0
Peanuts	14	40	46	0	0
Cotton	5	41	46	8	0
All Apples	5	5	35	55	0
Grapes	0	4	25	61	10

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 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. 29	Mar. 1 to Sep. 29 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	84	56	91	45	70	7	3761	3531	0.00	1.21	-2.45	28.70	-4.67
Norfolk	81	64	91	60	73	4	4179	3932	0.22	0.38	-3.42	24.63	-11.59
Richmond	87	59	92	52	73	7	4179	3818	0.00	1.11	-2.71	30.17	-3.72
Roanoke	86	60	93	48	73	9	4120	NA	0.00	1.11	-2.59	21.68	-11.16
Wash/Dulles	86	57	93	50	72	9	3826	NA	0.59	1.40	-2.28	19.06	-12.70

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

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**LEE (Harold Jerrell)**

Cool nights and moderate to hot days continue. No rainfall measured the past week. Pastures continue to deteriorate and dust flows from the hills when animals walk across them.

**MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)**

Recent scattered showers late last week helped a few areas, but overall, there has been little rainfall. Good conditions for harvesting corn and tobacco but without rainfall plantings of small grains and cover crops will struggle to germinate. Hay crop is in bad shape and won't recover before frost, plus winter survival is questionable.

**SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Received about 0.4 inches of rain in only some areas of the county last week. Silage chopping is well underway with most farmers experiencing 50% of normal yield. Cattle producers are still looking for hay and alternative feeds for the remaining cattle. One producer commented "we've culled everything that needed culling; now we're just closing our eyes, pointing, and putting them on the truck". Vegetable harvest is beginning to slow, with bell peppers and tomatoes still in abundance. Sorghum cane is being harvested, with higher than normal sugar content.

**WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)**

September ended with another 2 inches of rainfall deficit for Wythe County. Cooler weather and morning dews have provided only a slight improvement on pasture conditions. Hay stores are being used up prematurely. Most producers are currently providing some hay for their livestock to supplement poor or exhausted pastures. Alternative feeds are getting hard to purchase because of low supplies and high demand for them. Large numbers of cattle are being marketed early, and many producers are reducing numbers in an attempt to conserve winter feeds. Water supplies are also becoming critical. Hay for sale in the area is extremely limited and low. Some producers are already looking to other states to have hay shipped in. Transportation cost for this is high, making the cost of hay extremely high for producers.

**MIDDLESEX (Moore)**

There is a chance of rain the end of the week that many producers are hoping will come and bring some relief for soybeans and pastures. Late soybeans still have some potential but they need rain right now. Corn harvest continues and yields are anywhere from poor to very good. Producers need some rain to be able to feel good about the small grain planting. Farm activities include stalk shredding, lime application, soil sampling, corn harvest, soybean scouting and some vegetable harvest. Grain market prices have been very interesting lately and producers are keeping a very watchful eye on them.

**WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

Dry conditions continue in Westmoreland County. The corn harvest continued this week with more yields in the 30 - 70 bushel range. Late soybeans suffered again this week in the heat and dryness. Some field preparations were made for small grain planting. Some late vegetable and broccoli harvest continued.

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)**

Another week with no rain coupled with declining crop conditions. Most tobacco producers are delaying harvest because of green tobacco. Most soybeans are currently being harvested for hay. Small grain producers are slowly beginning to plant, but delaying in hopes of rain. Pastures are looking greener but have not shown any additional growth. Cattle producers are culling and local markets are reporting record numbers of animals sold.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	95	92	93	88
Corn For Grain Harvested	55	40	47	45
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	50	29	52	48
Soybeans Harvested	5	2	3	4
Winter Wheat Seeded	7	3	9	9
Barley Seeded	35	23	37	25
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	87	72	82	82
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	90	87	88	92
Peanuts Dug	30	20	21	23
Peanuts Combined	20	NA	16	11
Cotton Bolls Opening	99	94	95	83
Cotton Harvested	10	NA	6	9
Fall Apples Harvested	73	60	80	71
Winter Apples Harvested	29	25	25	24