

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

It's been nice and sunny, but some areas got heavy rain. As the fields dry out farmers were busy shredding corn stocks, picking a few peanuts and early maturing soybeans. There are concerned about high fertilizer cost. Some projections show next year's wheat crop could be \$200 per acre in fertilizer cost. Wheat is at break even scenario. Input costs are going to determine what crops farmers will grow for next year.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We have had 3-days of rain showers. Soil is most saturated since last winter. Farmers are still able to harvest corn though. Corn has some mold and rot.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Corn harvest was slow this week because of wet field conditions resulting from 5 inches of rain late in the previous week and 1 inch or more of rain this week. Strawberry growers had difficulty planting strawberries in very muddy fields. Even with hand planting, workers were often ankle deep in mud. Growers are pressing to complete planting as ideal strawberry planting window has passed.

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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**

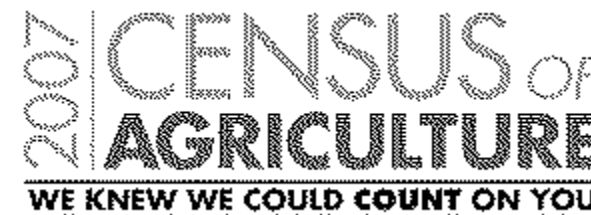


Week Of: September 29 – October 5, 2008 Number: 30 Released: October 6, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 5, 2008

More rain for the Commonwealth this week. Most of the State received between 1 to 5 inches of rain. Frost was reported in southwestern Virginia. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. The rain improved late planted soybeans, pastureland, and hay field conditions. The current rain showers and a slow start back in spring delayed crop progress. Corn harvested for grain is 7 percent behind normal, peanuts combined is 19 percent behind normal, and flue-cured tobacco is 32 percent behind for this time of year. Tobacco growers are concerned that they will not be able to complete the harvest before frost affects the crop. The majority of Virginia's livestock are in good condition. Cattlemen are stockpiling feed and preparing for feeder cattle sales. Strawberry farmers contended with muddy fields, trying to finish planting before ideal weather conditions pass. Other farming activities included repairing farm equipment, pricing winter wheat inputs, attending meetings, and preparing for the cotton harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 5, 2008	6	20	70	4
September 28, 2008	5	19	68	8
September 21, 2008	10	29	58	3
September 14, 2008	5	19	68	8
September 7, 2008	5	20	67	8



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	5	17	35	39	4
Livestock	0	3	24	64	9
Hay, Other	3	24	32	40	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	17	26	51	6
Corn	10	20	25	34	11
Soybeans	6	19	37	31	7
Peanuts	0	10	47	36	7
Cotton	0	11	48	30	11
Grapes	0	0	2	82	16

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF September 28 – October 4, 2008													
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 Oct 4	Mar. 1 to Oct 4 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	49	79	37	61	-1	3603	3592	0.01	2.29	-2.11	22.04	-11.86
Norfolk	75	58	77	50	67	0	4291	4009	2.32	9.54	5.00	31.34	-5.53
Richmond	76	56	80	45	66	2	4174	3892	0.67	5.95	1.48	40.69	6.21
Roanoke	74	51	80	44	63	1	3807	NA	0.00	2.17	-2.17	27.11	-6.77
Wash/Dulles	73	51	79	46	62	1	3625	NA	0.92	7.38	3.12	38.00	5.53

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. * Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. NA = not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Mature	94	92	99	92
Corn Harvested for Grain	48	41	69	55
Corn Silage Harvested	90	84	100	94
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	49	35	61	60
Soybeans Harvested	1	0	9	6
Winter Wheat Seeded	12	8	9	11
Barley Seeded	40	25	36	33
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	60	58	89	92
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	84	70	94	95
Peanuts Dug	8	5	48	37
Peanuts Combined	4	2	34	23
Cotton Bolls Opening	90	87	100	89
Cotton Harvested	10	3	22	14
Fall Apples Harvested	63	48	81	78
Winter Apples Harvested	32	30	33	30
Oats for Grain Seeded	26	19	NA	NA

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain and soybean producers are preparing to start harvesting soybeans and finish planting winter grain and cover crops. Corn harvest is almost complete. Vegetable farmers are harvesting the last of the summer crops and beginning to pick winter squash and pumpkins. Fall greens like kale and collards are also being harvested. Broccoli and cauliflower are nearing the heading stage. Pastures and hayfields have benefitted greatly from recent rains. However it is beginning to turn dry again. Regular rainfall is needed to replenish depleted ground water and keep small grains growing well.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Late rains helped late planted soybeans greatly. Pods at very top of plant should fill out pretty good. All corn ready to harvest but harvest delayed due to high moisture content which can cause quite a bite of deduction in price. Some farmers are not planting wheat due to high cost of inputs. Snap beans are being harvested by machine. Farmers are repairing farm equipment when not in fields and attending an occasional meeting. Tomato harvest is almost complete.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest and most farm activities have slowed due to recent rains. Areas received nearly 5 inches of rain at the end of last week. Range of rain 1 to 5 inches. Cloudy weather and humid conditions have also slowed harvest. Land prep continues for small grain plantings. Producers are still pushing the pencil as they try and decide how much wheat to plant. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Early soybean yields will be hurt, but late rains will benefit the double crops soybeans. Vegetable production is about over. Some cover crop planting is beginning.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

The County is still very dry. We received some heavy frost in isolated areas on Friday morning. Good weather for harvesting corn and hay. Fall apple harvest looking good. Fall vegetable crops progressing fairly well, but need rain. Winter grain crops being sown, and need rain as well.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler weather and rain showers have helped improve morale and the looks of the county considerably. Most vegetable producers are winding up harvest and beef cattle producers are readying for feeder cattle sales.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Tazewell County experienced a first frost this week. Pastures are beginning to drop back. Ground water is low.

SOUTHERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Some light rain and cooler weather this week kept folks from cutting and baling some late hay. Some stockpiling of fescue is occurring. Livestock is beginning to improve in body condition. Plans are being made for fall and winter producer meetings.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

The County is expecting to plant less wheat this year due to high fertilizer costs and a lower booking price at this time. Very little to no barley will be planted. Pastures are getting better every day. I hope for a late frost for our tobacco and peanut crops. Also, a lot of our cotton still needs time for defoliation before a frost.