

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Hay is still being cut. Cooler weather has helped in the stockpiling of tall fescue. Soybeans are really dropping their leaves now. Several acres of alfalfa has been planted and coming up nicely. A few light rains have been falling and helping fall gardens. Fall, Winter and Spring meetings are getting ready to gear up for producers in the area.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Surry County had a good work week, with no rain. About 30% of the peanuts are dug with picking just beginning. Yields are varied depending on who got showers. Cotton yields are also varied with defoliation in full swing and picking just starting. A few early soybeans are being cut.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are winding up corn harvest this week and are looking to start planting small grains the beginning of next week because of good soil moisture conditions. Some early soybeans were harvested last week.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Cool and moist weather helped with the onset of seeding small grain which just started last week. Hay and pasture has also responded well to the current weather. Sunny days have aided in the peanut and cotton harvest.

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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: October 6 - 12, 2008

Number: 31

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 2008

Most of Virginia was dry this week, except for a few areas that experienced light to moderate showers. Cooler autumn temperatures persisted throughout most of the week. Days suitable for field work were 6.6. The corn harvest was wrapping up and the soybean harvest had just begun. Winter grains and cover crops were sowed behind the harvested fields. In the warmer parts of the State, farmers are waiting until the weather cools a little more before planting; they worry that the wheat will advance too quickly and frost will damage the crop. Ideal weather this week contributed to the good progress made on the peanut and cotton harvests. Cattlemen were watching the market closely, hoping that the calf price will improve. Good autumn grass and mild weather will help with the retention of calves. However, farmers are worried about hay stocks. Due to the dry summer, less hay was harvested than expected. Other farming activities included harvesting pumpkins and winter squash, reseeding alfalfa fields, curing tobacco, and finished up the tomato harvest.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 12, 2008	8	31	61	0
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	24	36	30	2
Livestock	1	5	25	59	10
Hay, Other	3	25	33	38	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	14	29	50	7
Soybeans	5	19	35	34	7
Peanuts	0	9	38	46	7
Cotton	0	10	45	39	6
Grapes	0	1	5	84	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	67	48	81	67
Corn Silage Harvested	94	90	100	97
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	61	49	77	78
Soybeans Harvested	4	1	16	12
Winter Wheat Seeded	19	12	11	16
Winter Wheat Emerged	4	NA	NA	NA
Barley Seeded	59	40	47	47
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	66	60	94	96
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	93	84	99	99
Peanuts Dug	50	8	73	54
Peanuts Combined	33	4	61	40
Cotton Bolls Opening	93	90	100	93
Cotton Harvested	19	10	39	23
Fall Apples Harvested	75	63	91	84
Winter Apples Harvested	43	32	39	43
Oats for Grain Seeded	54	26	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF October 5 - 11, 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 12	Mar. 1 to Oct 12 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	53	80	46	63	4	3694	3674	0.05	2.33	-2.84	22.08	-12.96
Norfolk	74	58	80	47	66	2	4404	4107	0.00	9.56	4.19	31.37	-5.97
Richmond	75	54	82	48	65	3	4280	3980	0.00	5.94	0.59	40.68	5.31
Roanoke	75	54	83	48	65	5	3914	NA	0.15	2.35	-2.65	27.30	-7.25
Wash/Dulles	72	49	78	42	60	2	3708	NA	0.00	7.37	2.36	37.99	4.67

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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NORTHERN

FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Corn yields are running slightly above average, including fields that have to be replanted this spring. Soybean harvest is just beginning. Yields in early planted fields should be above average. Livestock are in excellent condition. Stockpiled forages have done well, along with small grains.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are finishing up corn harvest. Some early maturing soybeans have been harvested. Most farmers are waiting for soybeans that are still green to mature and dry down for harvest. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up tomato and other summer vegetable fields, cutting greens, and harvesting pumpkins and winter squash. Moisture conditions are drying out again. Some farmers have taken advantage of the dry weather by harvesting another cutting of hay. However, hay will be in short supply this winter. This summer's drought has significantly cut into hay reserves for winter.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Fields have responded well to rains of last week. Cover crops of rye are continuing to be sown and the pumpkin harvest continues. Orchards are holding harvest festivals.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Tomato harvest is almost completely over. Corn harvest is finishing up. Soybean harvest has just begun and yields are average. Snap beans are being machine harvested. Yields are about average. Farmers are applying fertilizer, chemicals and preparing land for barley and wheat. Good week for fieldwork in forecast the next few days. Farmers are following commodity and stock market closely. Many have lost money. Stock and commodity market situation has potential to change farmer planting intentions for fall.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues. Soybean harvest is just getting underway. Full season yields will be below average due to hot dry summer conditions. Double crop beans look good and hopefully frost will delay and crops will be good. Land preparation for small grain plantings continues, but costs of production are high and have producers concerned. Declining costs of fuel and petroleum based products may help situation. Fertilizer costs need to decline for producers to realize and profit in small grains and corn for next year. Vegetable harvest is about over. Plastic is being removed and cover crops are being planted.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The last fields of silage corn and hay are being harvested. Cattle producers are watching markets closely as good autumn grass and mild weather has allowed later retention of calves.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Lower cattle prices have many producers concerned about the short term future. Some producers are beginning to call about hay availability and price. Vegetable harvests are slowing considerably, with an overall good year.