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United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

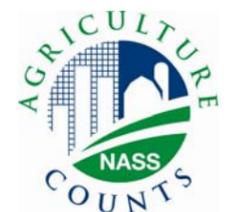


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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: Oct. 8 - 14, 2007

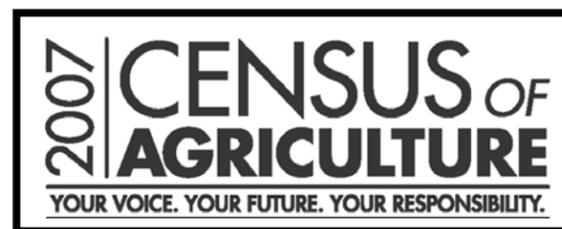
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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, 2007

The Commonwealth again experienced another week without precipitation. Days suitable for work were 6.8. Topsoil moisture was generally very short. Many livestock producers have sold calves at recent livestock sales in hopes of reducing the need for more hay and easing the stress on pastures. Hay sources are still in very high demand as winter stocks continue to be fed. Water sources are also remaining a major issue as rivers and creeks remain below normal levels and also as wells begin to dry. The corn harvest is complete in most areas. Soybean harvest is underway in most areas with full season beans providing better yields than double cropped beans. Peanut and cotton harvest are in full swing and expected to come to an end within the coming week. Farmers have prepared land for small grains planting but are still holding off in hopes of rain to increase soil moisture. Other activities this week include equipment repair and soil sampling.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 14, 2007	55	39	6	0
October 7, 2007	61	35	4	0
September 30, 2007	52	36	12	0
September 23, 2007	46	41	13	0
September 16, 2007	18	51	31	0



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	44	37	15	4	0
Livestock	2	13	35	40	10
Other Hay	40	31	23	6	0
Alfalfa Hay	24	27	27	18	4
Soybeans	18	27	37	18	0
Peanuts	12	36	42	10	0
Cotton	20	20	40	20	0
All Apples	1	11	30	53	5

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, 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 Oct. 13	Mar. 1 to Oct. 13 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	52	92	37	65	7	4006	3689	0.00	1.21	-4.29	28.70	-6.30
Norfolk	79	63	91	52	71	8	4494	4123	0.25	0.64	-4.69	24.89	-12.82
Richmond	82	59	95	49	70	10	4469	3996	0.00	1.12	-4.48	30.18	-5.32
Roanoke	79	56	92	40	67	8	4379	NA	0.00	1.19	-3.98	21.76	-12.77
Wash/Dulles	80	56	94	44	68	11	4094	NA	0.00	1.40	-3.78	19.06	-14.37

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°)) / 2 - 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>. 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

MIDDLESEX (Moore)

Soybean harvest is gearing up. Many early beans are being harvested and yields are in the 20-30 bushel range with surprisingly fair to good quality. Soybeans are drying down fast and most have dropped leaves. Producers are harvesting beans at 10-12% moisture. Corn harvest continues for some producers. Wheat and cover crop planting is proceeding cautiously even though soil conditions are dry. Many producers are prepping land for planting but will wait for rain before planting. Some hay is being made, but it is very sparse. Vegetable harvest is over.

WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)

The corn harvest is winding down this week, most farmers are done. The soybean harvest has started. There have been decent yields on full season beans. Small grain planting is going slowly, some farmers are waiting for rain. Some late vegetable harvest continues. It is extremely dry across the area with no rain in sight.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

The harvest is wrapping up with the last of corn for silage harvested last week. A large number of spring calves have also left farms this past week, this will take pressure off extremely short forage supplies. The New River, which drains our region is running at near record low flow rates; almost 60% below normal.

WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)

The dry conditions continue. Producers are still marketing livestock in higher than normal numbers, and at lower weights than normal. The quality of the cattle has decreased some, with some cattle showing signs of a lack of feed. Almost all producers are feeding their winter stores of feed now, and are reducing numbers of livestock drastically to stretch their winter feed supply. Some producers are reporting wells drying up, and water supplies are extremely short. Many streams are at or below record lows, and many streams and ponds have dried up. There is no local hay to be found, and many producers are worried that an extended winter will cause major feed supply problems. Cost for transporting hay into the region puts the price of hay at about \$220-240 per ton from states out West. Owners of horses and sheep are also having trouble finding hay for their animals.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Drought conditions continue. Slight showers in a small section of the county offered little to no relief. Springs and streams are drying up and producers are hauling water and feeding hay. Calf sales early last week helped lighten the load on some pastures. Most calves, yearlings and lambs have been marketed for the fall. Some cows are beginning to move to help the winter feed situation.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn For Grain Harvested	83	75	72	69
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	82	65	82	81
Soybeans Harvested	18	10	8	13
Winter Wheat Seeded	11	10	23	19
Barley Seeded	51	37	64	54
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	95	90	93	94
Peanuts Dug	80	55	53	56
Peanuts Combined	70	40	38	39
Cotton Harvested	44	27	29	25
Fall Apples Harvested	94	84	90	85
Winter Apples Harvested	40	35	34	48