

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHWESTERN

BLAND (Jim Atwell)

There was a hard frost on the 19th and 20th. Temperatures were in the mid 20's for most areas on those two mornings.

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

First freeze this past weekend.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Tazewell county received about one half inch of rain Friday which helped the topsoil moisture.

SOUTHERN

LUNENBURG (Katie Baker)

The first heavy frost of the year was reported throughout the county for the morning of October 20th.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

This past week saw a rise in temperatures with moisture needs still high. Many folks are calling about pond weeds that needed to be taken care of earlier in their growing season. Fall pasture stockpiling in some areas is going well. Producers are still trying to cut some last minute hay. There is still quite a bit of Flue-Cured Tobacco in the fields at this time. Soybeans are

quickly dropping leaves and corn is drying for combining in our area.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Fair weather provided opportunity for peanut and cotton harvest to proceed. Soybean harvest is just beginning with yields lower than expected. Frost on Sunday night (19th) will speed up harvest and small grain seeding.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

We had a little bit of rain; it was enough to slow the peanut and cotton harvest, but not enough to keep farmers out of the field. We had a little frost Sunday night, but whether or not it was a killing frost, we're not sure yet. If we get a good weekend, we should be able to wrap up the corn harvest and make a pretty good dent in the peanut harvest. Some of wheat will get planted for grain this week. The soybean harvest should really pick up. Soybean yields are down on early beans that were hit by summer drought. Double crop beans planted behind wheat will have better yields.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Suffolk county had its first light frost. Good weather aided progress in peanut and cotton harvest. We anticipate getting into the soybean harvest when November rolls around. City of Suffolk has been very blessed, compared to the bordering counties to west.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: October 13 - 19, 2008

Number: 32

Released: October 20, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 19, 2008

A light to heavy frost scattered across the Commonwealth this week. For most counties, it was their first frost of autumn. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. Parts of Virginia experienced rain showers, with some areas receiving as much as 1 inch of rain. Despite the late season rain showers, water reserves became a concern. Subsoil moisture is down and stream flow has slowed down. Corn harvested for grain is almost complete, with several counties finished for the year. Soybeans dropping leaves are about two weeks behind normal. The soybean harvest is 12 percent behind average. Farmers anticipate good progress to be made on the soybean crop next week and are preparing combines for the harvest. Farmers are uncertain about planting winter wheat; many farmers are holding off and waiting for input cost to come down. Fall calving is well underway, with the majority of cattle in good condition. Other farming activities included planting cover crops and small grains, clearing fields and harvesting fall vegetables.

Week Ending	TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 19, 2008	7	36	57	0
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	6	16	39	36	3
Livestock	1	4	24	62	9
Hay, Other	4	23	39	31	3
Hay, Alfalfa	0	14	17	59	10
Soybeans	6	20	39	30	5
Barley	0	0	48	48	4
Cotton	0	11	43	43	3
Oats	0	0	39	59	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	78	67	87	76
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	76	61	88	89
Soybeans Harvested	14	4	27	20
Winter Wheat Seeded	21	19	15	23
Winter Wheat Emerged	9	4	NA	NA
Barley Seeded	77	59	57	64
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	76	66	99	99
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	99	93	100	100
Peanuts Dug	61	50	88	73
Peanuts Combined	38	35	76	55
Cotton Bolls Opening	98	93	100	96
Cotton Harvested	24	19	49	32
Fall Apples Harvested	83	75	95	91
Winter Apples Harvested	49	43	59	59
Oats for Grain Seeded	74	54	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF October 12 - 18, 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 18	Mar. 1 to Oct 18 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	78	59	90	47	68	1	3788	3750	0.93	3.26	-2.66	23.01	-12.39
Norfolk	80	67	93	60	74	2	4518	4199	0.57	10.13	4.03	31.94	-6.54
Richmond	81	63	94	51	72	2	4387	4066	0.66	6.60	0.49	41.34	5.08
Roanoke	79	60	91	48	70	2	4023	NA	0.87	3.22	-2.53	28.17	-7.04
Wash/Dulles	80	59	93	46	69	2	3805	NA	0.00	7.37	1.62	37.99	4.08

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

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

We had our first frost this morning.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

Some areas experienced a heavy frost. Recent rain has delayed late pasture seeding and renovations.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Precipitation for the week was 0.97 inches. There was higher than normal day and night temperatures most of the week.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Spotsylvania is experiencing dry conditions again. Fall hay harvest is nearly complete.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Producers are harvesting hay where they cannot graze. Stream flow remains below normal with some streams not flowing continuously.

CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)

Last week we got about 1 inch of rain in Campbell County. A frost on 10/20/08 should help the quality of our fescue pastures. Fall calving season is in full stride. With the early rain in May, hay tests have come back poor, due to the later harvesting of fescue. I would recommend testing hay to see if you need to compensate.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is adequate in most areas. Small grains are up and growing. Pastures and hayfields have put on good growth this fall. Ground water is low. Streams and ponds are down in volume and low in flow. Rainfall has not been consistent or plentiful. Corn harvest is nearly over. Soybean producers are waiting for beans to cure out and dry down. Combines are being readied for soybean harvest which should start this week. Many farmers are investigating increasing their storage capacity to hold harvested grain until prices rebound. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up fields and planting cover crops, in addition to harvesting fall vegetables.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Late hay is still being made. Farmers were frustrated by wet weather at the end of week. Pumpkins are still available for wholesalers.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Tomato season is over. Farmers were cleaning up the fields. The corn harvest is over, yields were average. Soybean harvest is under way. Early soybean yields are disappointing, the yields are average or below. The seed size is very small on early beans due to dry weather. Fall snap bean harvest is nearly complete with average yields. Little wheat has been planted. Acreage will be down due to lower price in commodity market and high price of inputs. Input cost has decreased a little since stock market drop and high volatility. Many farmers are holding off on buying inputs due to crop price uncertainty. Farmers paid record prices this year for inputs and prices for their crops have dropped now significantly. If crop prices do not improve many will lose money.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Corn harvest is almost complete. Beans are maturing. Soil conditions are getting dry.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues. Soybean harvest is getting underway and yields are average to good. Producers still wrestling concerns about planting wheat due to high input costs. Fuel prices are dropping with hopes that fertilizer prices may ease off. Barley planting is about over and wheat planting will be in full swing next week.