



NATIONAL
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SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: Oct 16-Oct 22, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 2006

The Commonwealth experienced another cool week with adequate rainfall. Days suitable for field work were 4.3. The average high temperature was 79 degrees with lows near freezing. Many areas experienced frost throughout the week. Rains slowed field work again this week, especially for corn and soybean harvest efforts. The rains, however, continued to improve soil moisture levels that will be crucial for the late fall and winter. Fall calving season is in full swing, and pasture growth is strong. Many producers are trying to cut a late cutting of hay to increase supplies for winter feeding. Moisture conditions are also good for small grain crops. Land preparations continued this week for wheat planting, which should be in full swing next week. Many people have been able to enjoy fruit festivals at orchards and wineries due to the good quality of the crops. Farmers this week turned their attention to preparations for the winter months, as well as weaning calves and preparing fences. Other farm activities included fertilizer and lime application, soil sampling, and stalk shredding.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 24, 2006	1	9	80	10
October 1, 2006	2	5	85	8
October 8, 2006	0	2	78	20
October 15, 2006	0	2	82	16
October 22, 2006	0	2	82	16

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	77	29	53	-3	0.84	0.14	3
Warrenton	76	35	55	1	1.04	0.27	4
Winchester 7 SE	78	29	53	-1	1.01	0.31	5
Dale Enterprises	74	28	51	-3	0.73	0.03	4
WESTERN							
Glasgow	80	29	54	-2	1.29	0.47	3
Roanoke AP	80	36	56	1	1.38	0.48	3
Waynesboro	79	30	52	1	1.82	0.98	4
Staunton AG	77	30	53	2	1.33	0.49	5
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	78	34	55	-2	1.01	-0.04	4
Piedmont Res ST	78	35	56	1	0.98	0.07	3
Bremo Bluff	84	31	57	2	0.90	-0.08	3
Richmond AP	82	40	62	6	0.54	-0.30	2
EASTERN							
Eastville	73	42	60	0	0.82	0.26	2
Wallops Island	77	38	60	-2	1.11	0.55	3
Williamsburg	78	41	59	2	0.99	0.29	4
Keysville	79	32	56	0	0.65	-0.23	2
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	78	27	51	-1	1.90	1.06	3
Wytheville	78	25	50	-1	2.18	1.41	3
Saltville	77	25	53	1	1.44	0.67	4
Richlands	77	25	53	7	1.05	0.28	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	81	33	55	0	1.41	0.48	4
Danville AG	80	39	57	0	0.92	0.08	3
Chatham	78	28	53	-2	1.29	0.45	3
Martinsville	77	27	53	-2	0.96	0.05	4
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	79	43	63	3	0.50	-0.20	2
Oceana	80	43	63	1	0.63	-0.07	2
Emporia	81	35	59	3	0.71	-0.06	2
Newport News	82	43	64	5	0.73	0.03	3

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	9	39	42	9
Livestock	1	4	23	57	15
Other Hay	2	20	37	34	7
Alfalfa Hay	2	12	40	39	7
Soybeans	4	12	49	27	8
Barley	0	0	47	49	4
Peanuts	0	13	34	43	10
Cotton	0	11	42	29	18
All Apples	0	3	14	83	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	73	72	96	83
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	91	85	97	91
Soybeans Harvested	18	8	30	24
Winter Wheat Seeded	32	24	26	29
Winter Wheat Emerged	8	6	0	9
Barley Seeded	80	66	62	69
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	98	93	100	99
Peanuts Dug	79	54	81	80
Peanuts Combined	50	39	67	64
Cotton Harvested	34	29	39	38
Fall Apples Harvested	94	90	92	93
Winter Apples Harvested	74	35	41	68

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

SHENANDOAH COUNTY (Bobby Clark):

The county experienced frost on October 13, 14, and 15.

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

Rain showers have slowed field work again this week. Soybean harvest is at a standstill. Growers have indicated soybean yields and seed quality are poor on early season varieties. Many producers are trying to make a late cutting of hay to build hay supplies for winter.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):

Rains continue to replenish soil moisture. We are beginning to see a positive effect on subsoil moisture which is strongly needed as we enter late fall and winter. Rains continue to delay harvest efforts of corn, soybeans and late hay. However, late pasture growth continues to be strong. Several frosts have occurred but have not set forage growth back at this point. Spring born calves continue to find their way into several different marketing channels. Fall calving season is in full swing.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers have been combining soybeans and planting small grain crops. Corn harvest has been generally completed except for a few fields that have been too wet to get into. Moisture conditions for small grains, pasture, and hayfields are very good. In addition to planting small grains, farmers are planting and renovating pastures and hayfields.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Land prep continues for wheat planting. Fertilizer and lime applications continue, as well as soil sampling and stalk shredding. Few fields of corn are still out as corn harvest was slowed again this week by rain. Some end-of-season haymaking continues. Wheat planting will be in full swing next week. The flurry of activity in the grain market this past week has many producers watching the market closely. Scattered frost last weekend put an end to most plants left outside. Late double cropped beans were scorched pretty badly.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):

Rain slowed field operations slightly this week, but much progress was made in corn and soybean harvest, as well as small grain planting. Acres sowed to small grains appear to have increased this year in response to higher wheat prices and availability of cost-share funds for cover crops. In addition to harvesting and planting, farmers were applying herbicides, lime and fertilizer prior to planting wheat.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

More rain slowed corn and soybean harvest as well as small grain planting this week. Fog made drying difficult after the rains. A small acreage of grain sorghum harvest began. A few late vegetables are still being harvested; greens, sweet potatoes, broccoli, etc. Conditions are too wet for haying.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

The county received another 1 inch or more of precipitation this past week. The rain was good for fall crops and groundwater reserves, but not so helpful for producers trying

to finish up silage and late hay cuttings. The upcoming week's forecast looks to be wet and cold, so harvesting dilemmas are expected to continue.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Jamie Stowe):

Flue-cured tobacco harvest in Pittsylvania County is quickly coming to a finish due to the localized frosts experienced over the past two weeks. Some tobacco was outright killed by the frost on October 13 and 14th, while other tobacco remained undamaged. Market preparation of burley tobacco began on a few farms this past week in order to utilize the H2-A labor on the farms before their imminent return to Mexico. Farmers are anxiously awaiting drier weather so small grain planting can resume. Farm supply dealers in the area report slower than normal sales of small grain seed in the area related to weather. Late season hay is being harvested, but curing conditions make it difficult.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY (Mike Parrish):

Wet weather is hindering harvest of both soybeans and peanuts, with both grade and yields down. The outlook for the group 5's is not good. Harvest yields are ranging from 10 to 40 Bu. with damage. Cotton is still holding on well. Yields are ranging from 600 to 900 lbs/ac. All yields are related to the location of the few isolated rain showers in August.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):

Frost on the mornings of the 14th and 15th caused spotty damage on tobacco remaining in the field, but nothing very severe and was on limited acres. The majority of flue-cured harvest was completed last week with only a few growers with tobacco still in the field.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Market dips have slowed calf marketing a bit. Most activities surround preparing for winter, weaning calves, fence building and repairs. Corn silage harvest continues with yields slightly below average.



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