

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

NORTHERN

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

The Town of Culpeper is within days of mandatory water use restrictions. Municipal supply is approaching three feet below normal and the rate of decline is accelerating. Crop harvest progresses ahead of normal rates, as well as small grains planting. Hay feeding increases on farms each week and in the best of cases, pasture will run out within 2 to 3 weeks. Cattle-marketing is active this week as culling and early calf sales reduce the demand on stored feed.

CENTRAL

CAMPBELL (Scott Reiter)

Beef cattle producers continue to struggle with finding enough hay to feed herds through the winter. Most herds are being culled to the best cows and supplemental grains are being purchased to replace hay needed. Some producers are baling corn and soybean residues to provide some forage for cattle. Small grain seeded for grazing is a failure with only 10-20% of seeds germinating at this time. Small grain seeding has stopped due to lack of moisture. A big concern at this time is the hay and pasture stand loss and potential recovery. We could be looking at a real hay shortage next spring with lost stands and no ability to replant hay fields this fall.

POWHATAN (Eric Bowen)

The few rain showers provided no relief to fields. Cover crops that were no-tilled two weeks ago have germinated surprisingly well. Harvesting continues as well as cover crop installation without interruption due to dry conditions.

PRINCE EDWARD (Bobby Long)

Drought conditions continue to create challenges on the farm. Fall hay crops have been minimal. Stockpiling fescue for grazing has not been feasible, winter hay supplies are dwindling and are not adequate to sustain herds until spring grazing, and seeding of small grains has essentially ceased. The local soil and water conservation district has parked no-till drills until significant rain is received because of the damage caused to them seeding into hard dry ground. Cattle producers are culling heavy, selling calves earlier than normal, and weaning early in an effort to manage feed supplies.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Late week showers settled dust but did very little for the low ground water conditions. Calves and lambs and cull cows continue to be marketed. Chief activity includes feeding hay and hauling water to livestock in some locations in the County.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: Oct. 15 - 21, 2007

Number: 33

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 21, 2007

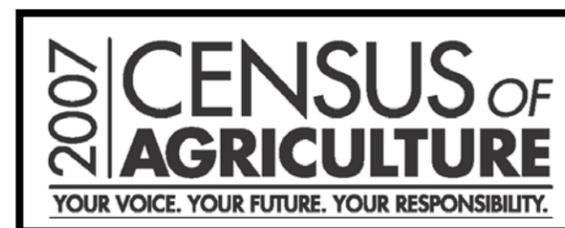
Dry conditions persist another week despite some areas receiving insignificant showers. Days suitable for work were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was generally very short. Livestock producers continue to heavily cull herds due to forage and water shortages. Hay stocks are dwindling and water levels have dropped significantly causing wells and other natural water sources to dry. A few areas are still harvesting corn. The soybean harvest continues with varying yields. Most of the state's peanuts have been dug and the harvest is coming to a close. The cotton harvest is in full swing. Some producers have decided to continue small grain planting with the hope of precipitation soon. Other activities this week include lime spreading, soil sampling, land preparation for small grain planting, and equipment repair and maintenance.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 21, 2007	56	38	6	0
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



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	50	37	10	3	0
Livestock	4	13	35	40	8
Other Hay	47	31	17	5	0
Alfalfa Hay	20	31	30	16	3
Soybeans	22	31	32	15	0
Barley	16	42	33	9	0
Peanuts	25	40	35	0	0
Cotton	12	23	45	20	0
All Apples	4	3	35	56	2

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 21, 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. 20	Mar. 1 to Oct. 20 normal *	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	76	48	79	40	62	6	4103	3761	0.32	1.53	-4.59	29.02	-6.80
Norfolk	79	57	87	50	68	8	4622	4212	0.00	0.64	-5.76	24.89	-13.40
Richmond	79	55	83	46	67	9	4595	4078	0.00	1.12	-5.10	30.18	-6.18
Roanoke	77	51	80	43	64	8	4486	NA	0.10	1.29	-4.57	21.86	-13.39
Wash/Dulles	77	49	82	39	63	9	4200	NA	0.35	1.75	-4.28	19.41	-14.64

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

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

It is too dry to plant wheat and have it germinate. Corn harvest is about finished and growers are cleaning up fields. Most soybeans are double cropped so it will be later than usual harvesting but yields are expected to be below average due to drought. Tomato harvest is finished. Accomack has been declared a disaster and farmers have been checking on what type of help is available. Butterbeans are not yet harvested.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Wheat planting began this week in a cloud of dust while combines hastily harvested full season soybeans. A few double crop soybeans were harvested. Moisture is good even though pods and stems are tough. Yields of soybeans have been surprisingly good. Full season beans will yield 25-40 bushels and quality is decent. As soon as leaves fall off the plant, the beans are ready. There is a chance of showers at the end of the week that will bring needed moisture for wheat planting and will slow soybean harvest. Many producers are going ahead with the bean harvest and waiting for rain to do the small grain planting. This weeks farm activities include land prep for small grain planting, wheat planting, soybean harvest, soil sampling, lime spreading, and equipment repair and maintenance.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Another week with unusually high temperatures continued to plague the county. Friday did bring some scattered rainfall to settle the dust. Fall wheat planting is in full swing though many producers have delayed in hopes of rain. Flue cured tobacco harvest is nearly complete and burley stripping will begin soon. Soybean harvest has yet to begin in much of the county. Local

livestock markets continue to report record sales. Producers are looking for ways to manage through the winter with current feed sources. Hay and pasture land continues to look thin and bare.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Wythe Morris)

Scattered showers last week helped to moderate temperatures but did little to alleviate moisture shortages. The New River still remains at record low levels throughout the region. High volume cattle sales at markets continue as forage supplies continue.

SOUTHEASTERN

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Showers on 10/18 helped with topsoil moisture, and led to more activity on small grain seeding, but we are still very dry. Corn harvest is almost complete, with peanut, cotton, and soybean harvest well underway.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Spotty showers have brought only localized relief from drought. Farmers are waiting on rain before planting wheat because of drought. Traditionally there is not a lot of no-till wheat planted here. Hopefully warm fall temperatures will continue to extend our wheat planting season. Non-irrigated fall vegetable crops have failed. Strawberry plants are well set because of adequate irrigation measures.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn For Grain Harvested	88	83	73	79
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	91	82	90	90
Soybeans Harvested	30	18	17	20
Winter Wheat Seeded	17	11	31	27
Barley Seeded	60	51	78	71
Peanuts Dug	91	80	75	75
Peanuts Combined	78	70	48	55
Cotton Harvested	51	44	33	34
Fall Apples Harvested	95	94	93	93
Winter Apples Harvested	67	40	68	66