

**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)

The frost season began on Monday and three mornings this week there was frost in the area. Tobacco has taken a hit from the frost and folks are trying to save what they can as quickly as possible. Many gardens were frost bitten this week as well, along with warm season grasses.

MECKLENBURG (C. Taylor Clarke Jr.)

The frost/freeze on October 20th caught around 15% of the tobacco crop still in the field. Damage was very variable from none to moderate. Frost was scattered on Oct 22nd and widespread Oct 23rd. Producers are continuing to harvest tobacco that was least affected. The losses suffer due to frost are a direct result of delayed crop development from summer drought. Producers were typically 3 to 4 weeks behind their normal harvest schedule. Rains in September turned a low yielding poor quality crop into an average and above average crop. Seventy five percent of growers had tobacco in the field Monday morning.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Frost and freeze warnings have stopped many producers from digging peanuts this week. The peanut crop is about 2 weeks late this year and we may still be harvesting in November. Some early soybeans have been harvested. Yields are below expectations and some damage has lowered seed quality enough to receive discounts at the market. Wheat seeding has picked up this week as growers target optimal timing. It remains to be seen what our wheat acreage will be with high input costs and a dismal cash price.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Winter wheat is being planted into good soil moisture. Soybean harvest is well underway.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Overall, outstanding yields are being reported. Some reports of 5000 pounds of peanuts per acre. In some places, cotton growers are expecting some 3 bales of cotton per acre. The City of Suffolk has done quite well.

National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: October 20 - 26, 2008

Number: 33

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 26, 2008

Most of Virginia received rain this week, with some areas receiving up to 2 inches. Temperatures were seasonable cool, with several counties reporting hard to light frost. Days suitable for field work were 5.8. The tobacco crop has taken a hit with the recent frost; growers are salvaging what they can. The damage to the tobacco crop varied from none to moderate. Recent rains have improved pasture and hay field conditions. The corn harvest is nearing completion. The soybean harvest is behind schedule, some of the plants are still too green and not drying out. Farmers anticipate by next week, the harvest will be in full swing. Other farming activities included cleaning fields, pulling plastic from vegetable fields, planting cover crops, and contemplating planting wheat based on speculative fuel and fertilizer cost.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 26, 2008	10	26	63	1
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	19	43	28	2
Livestock	1	5	29	59	6
Hay, Other	5	29	44	21	1
Hay, Alfalfa	0	20	27	49	4
Soybeans	6	22	35	31	6
Barley	0	0	55	44	1
Cotton	0	15	40	39	6
Oats	0	0	45	52	3

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF October 19 - 25, 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 25	Mar. 1 to Oct 25 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	60	37	67	29	49	-5	3827	3811	1.10	4.36	-2.24	24.11	-12.42
Norfolk	64	49	73	41	56	-3	4575	4272	0.17	10.30	3.44	32.11	-7.04
Richmond	64	41	73	36	53	-3	4441	4137	0.39	6.99	0.07	41.73	4.81
Roanoke	62	41	70	35	52	-3	4068	NA	0.85	4.07	-228	29.02	-6.80
Wash/Dulles	60	35	65	29	48	-5	3844	NA	1.11	8.48	1.96	39.10	4.19

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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CENTRAL

EASTERN

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	83	78	95	86
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	82	76	96	95
Soybeans Harvested	18	14	37	30
Winter Wheat Seeded	28	21	23	34
Winter Wheat Emerged	11	9	NA	NA
Barley Seeded	91	77	76	78
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	88	76	100	100
Peanuts Dug	81	61	94	88
Peanuts Combined	57	38	79	70
Cotton Bolls Opening	100	98	100	98
Cotton Harvested	37	24	72	46
Fall Apples Harvested	98	83	99	97
Winter Apples Harvested	82	49	81	76
Oats for Grain Seeded	85	74	NA	NA

AMHERST (William Seay)

Recent rain has helped the moisture situation and has improved pasture growth. Ground water reserves remain a concern with some streams not flowing continuously. Second cutting of hay continues with yields mix but good quality.

CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)

This week we saw a nice cooling, several farmers were doing some final hay baling around the county. Soybeans dropping leaves are sporadic with many farms still with lots of green.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Improved soil moisture has greened up pastures and hayfields. Hard frosts have slowed growth. Soybean harvest has been slow to start due to abnormally green plants and slow dry down. Soybean harvest should be in full swing this week. Hard frosts have put an end to the growth of any summer vegetable crop that was not covered. Farmers are cleaning up fields, pulling plastic, and finishing up cover crop planting.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

The county has received approximately 2 inches of rain on Friday and Saturday.

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Soybean harvest picked up. Yields are from less to average. Most beans are behind wheat so the harvest will be later than usual. Late bean yields should be average or less. Corn harvest about finished up except for a field here and there. Tomato harvest is over and fields are being cleaned up. The county had its' first frost this past week on Oct. 21. Not a complete killer frost but burned off tops of soybean leaves. Wheat planting is getting off to a slow start due to the late planted soybeans, uncertainty in markets, the cost of inputs and what is happening with Wall Street.

KING GEORGE (Regina Prunty)

Light rain on Saturday provided some moisture. Corn harvest is almost complete. Beans are beginning to be harvested.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Hard frosts and migrant laborers leaving have ended most vegetable harvests. Some cattle producers are getting ready for the upcoming Virginia Premium Assured Heifer sales and evaluating recent changes in fuel and a speculated reduction in fertilizer costs.