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WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: Oct 23-Oct 29, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 29, 2006

Fall weather has arrived for most areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 4.6. Average precipitation across the state this week was 1.4 inches. Average high temperatures were around 65 degrees, with average lows below freezing. Fall weather conditions have been excellent in some areas for field work, while field activities in other areas have been slowed by rain and high winds. Corn harvest is winding down after getting a slow start this harvest season. Reported yields are still strong. Farmers have turned their attention harvesting soybeans where fields were dry enough. Quality and yields are reported to be low this year. Small grain planting picked up the pace this week as well. Soil moisture levels in most areas have been good for small grains, as well as pastures and hay fields. Small grains are reported to be emerging nicely and greening up in the fields. Some late hay was harvested during the week where the weather permitted. Farmers look for a few dry days to complete peanut harvest and other field work. Snapbeans are being harvested, and tomato producers are preparing fields for cover crops. Other farm activities this week included soil sampling, stalk shredding, fertilizing small grains, weaning and harvesting calves, and repairing fences and barns.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
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
October 29, 2006	0	1	77	22

IN THIS REPORT:

AWIS Weather Table	pg 2
Crop Condition Percent	pg 3
Crop Progress Percent, with comparisons	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3, 4

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 29, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	65	27	44	-10	1.02	0.32	3
Warrenton	63	33	46	-8	1.09	0.26	1
Winchester 7 SE	64	28	44	-7	0.77	0.00	2
Dale Enterprises	64	25	43	-9	1.12	0.42	3
WESTERN							
Glasgow	64	28	46	-7	1.35	0.58	2
Roanoke AP	69	31	48	-6	1.45	0.61	2
Waynesboro	64	26	42	-8	0.58	-0.19	1
Staunton AG	62	28	43	-7	1.30	0.53	4
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	64	27	46	-10	1.17	0.16	2
Piedmont Res ST	64	31	46	-8	1.28	0.37	2
Bremo Bluff	66	28	47	-7	1.38	0.44	2
Richmond AP	72	36	52	-4	1.40	0.63	3
EASTERN							
Eastville	70	38	52	-7	1.24	0.61	2
Wallops Island	70	38	51	-8	2.23	1.60	3
Williamsburg	71	35	50	-7	1.32	0.62	2
Keysville	65	29	46	-8	1.55	0.71	2
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	64	26	42	-7	1.48	0.71	3
Wytheville	61	26	42	-8	1.58	0.81	3
Saltville	63	24	43	-9	1.85	1.08	3
Richlands	62	21	41	-5	1.60	0.83	4
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	67	29	46	-8	1.70	0.79	2
Danville AG	65	30	47	-9	1.32	0.51	3
Chatham	68	25	45	-8	2.28	1.44	4
Martinsville	64	29	45	-8	1.48	0.63	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	73	40	54	-5	1.68	1.00	3
Oceana	76	38	54	-7	1.33	0.63	2
Emporia	69	32	49	-6	1.30	0.53	2
Newport News	74	37	55	-3	1.79	1.11	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	8	29	46	16
Livestock	0	3	19	60	18
Other Hay	2	15	27	44	12
Alfalfa Hay	1	10	30	45	14
Soybeans	5	15	37	39	4
Winter Wheat	0	3	38	53	6
Barley	0	0	37	55	8
Cotton	0	15	38	39	8

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	82	73	100	90
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	96	91	100	97
Soybeans Harvested	29	18	40	36
Winter Wheat Seeded	42	32	44	42
Winter Wheat Emerged	19	8	0	14
Barley Seeded	89	80	82	84
Peanuts Dug	86	79	91	92
Peanuts Combined	70	50	80	80
Cotton Harvested	42	34	50	50
Winter Apples Harvested	93	74	52	83

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CULPEPER COUNTY (Carl Stafford):

Late hay and row crop harvest is active.

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Tim Mize):

Fall weather conditions have been excellent for seeding. Anyone brave enough to fertilize back in August during the drought has seen excellent stockpile growth. Corn yields remain strong.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are continuing with soybean harvest, and are getting in to double-crop beans, having harvested most full-season

beans. Quality and yield are down. Soil moisture is excellent and hayfields, pastures and small grain crops are all looking very good. We've had a couple of relatively light frosts, but not a hard killing frost.

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

The rainfall pattern this fall has created many problems with soybean harvest. Yields are reported to be low and quality is deteriorating. There is a large acreage of hay being cut and rainfall has hampered curing over the last few weeks. Producers with fenced hay fields have a distinct advantage this year.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Corn yields are average or above. Soybean harvest was slow to get started due to slow corn harvest caused by corn blown down by Ernesto. The same was true for wheat planting due to slow corn harvest. Tomato growers are cleaning up fields and removing old plastic and stakes and sowing cover crops. Farmers are happy over rising grain markets prices. Snapbean harvest is under way. We had light frost in parts of the county one night but it was not a killing frost.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

There are still a few patches of corn left for harvest. Soybean harvest is really gearing up now. Yields have been fair to good. Quality of seed has been poor to fair. Lots of pods are not filled completely. Beans are all different sizes. Small grain planting continues in full swing. Weather has been good for bean harvest and wheat planting. The forecast for the week's end is more rain which will slow planting and harvest. Market prices are still interesting and have many producers are watching and waiting. Soil sampling, bushhogging, stalk shredding, and field prep continues. Cover crop planting also continues. Plans for winter production meetings are beginning and plans for next year's seed purchases are already underway.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

It was a good week overall for corn harvest (which is winding down), soybean harvest, and small grain seeding. Small grains seem to be emerging well and starting to green up fields. Conditions early in the week were good for some late hay harvest. Rains came in Friday and Saturday and slowed field work. Some late vegetable harvest continued (greens and broccoli).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):

The recent 2" plus of rainfall slowed harvests and fall plantings.

HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):

County received rains on Friday and early Saturday. Tobacco harvest is complete. Most producers are completing baling and starting to strip the burley crops. Winter wheat planting is near complete. Soybean and corn harvest is underway.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Rain and high wind over the weekend played havoc on some tree limbs. The wind dried up the rain quickly. Folks are working to finish up some harvesting and getting small grains planted. Hunting season is opening and scouting for game is underway.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Recent rains have slowed peanut, cotton, and soybean harvest with low to average yields. Corn is almost complete with higher than average yields.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Producers are planting small grains, cutting soybeans, fertilizing small grains, and planting cover crops.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Rain and snow limited outdoor activities for several days. High winds on Saturday knocked out power and down some trees. Main activities centered around weaning and harvesting calves, preg checking cows, breeding sheep and fence and barn repairs. Corn silage harvest continues with 85% harvested and yields slightly below normal.



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