

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHERN

PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

There was some relief in the form of rain earlier in the week. Following the rain we have had 4 days of high winds drying out the topsoil somewhat.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Cold frost this week has helped take off remaining green soybean leaves. Field conditions are excellent for field work. Wheat acreage has been largely reduced this fall because of increased fertilizer costs and lower grain prices. Many farmers are talking of cutting corn acreage next year also.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Many producers tried to harvest soybeans this week but the green stems in plants make combining tough. Double crop soybeans are still not fully mature but seem to have escaped freeze damage. The freeze has caused the last few leaves to die off. Wheat planting can only progress as fast as soybean harvest since most wheat follows soybeans. Producers are nearly finished digging peanuts. They waited until the weekend to avoid the freeze Friday morning. It will likely take two more weeks to finish peanut harvest.

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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Of: October 27 – November 2, 2008 Number: 34 Released: November 3, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 2, 2008

The Commonwealth experienced light scattered showers and cooler than normal temperatures this week. Days suitable for field work were 6.2. Many Virginian farmers are concerned with the lack of precipitation. Springs and wells have begun to go dry; getting water to livestock has become a challenge. The lack of soil moisture has slowed emergence of small grains and cover crops, and in some cases farmers delayed planting these crops. Cattlemen are putting their livestock on feed. There are concerns that there will be a shortage in cattle feed due to the lack of hay stocks. Good progress was made on the soybean harvest, but farmers are still behind schedule for this time of year. In some cases, the soybean plant is still too green to harvest. Furthermore, most grain producers would rather use this time to plant wheat behind the harvested corn than harvest beans. Due to the lateness of harvesting soybeans, grain price uncertainty, and high input cost, farmers speculate over the total wheat acreage to be planted. Other farming activities for the week included working on combines, taking soil samples, and attending the occasional meeting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 2, 2008	14	32	53	1
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	10	20	40	28	2
Livestock	1	5	28	55	11
Hay, Other	7	24	44	22	3
Hay, Alfalfa	4	20	32	39	5
Soybeans	5	15	42	31	7
Barley	0	0	61	36	3
Cotton	0	5	40	45	10
Oats	0	1	55	42	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	89	83	99	92
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	96	82	99	98
Soybeans Harvested	34	18	51	42
Winter Wheat Seeded	49	28	44	50
Winter Wheat Emerged	16	11	NA	NA
Barley Seeded	95	91	90	89
Tobacco, Flue Cured Harvested	98	88	100	100
Peanuts Dug	97	81	99	96
Peanuts Combined	86	57	91	86
Cotton Harvested	61	37	84	57
Winter Apples Harvested	90	82	91	90
Oats for Grain Seeded	89	85	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF October 26 – November 1, 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 Nov 1	Mar. 1 to Nov 1 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	60	33	74	28	46	-6	3863	3849	0.01	4.37	-3.03	24.13	-12.99
Norfolk	62	40	72	34	51	-6	4617	4327	0.59	10.89	3.28	32.70	-7.17
Richmond	63	38	75	32	50	-4	4487	4188	0.27	7.27	-0.38	42.01	4.17
Roanoke	62	40	74	32	51	-2	4112	NA	0.00	4.07	-3.07	29.02	-7.71
Wash/Dulles	59	35	74	28	47	-4	3875	NA	0.00	8.51	1.24	39.13	3.56

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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WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Soil moisture levels continue to diminish. Pasture growth has stopped and some livestock have been moved to stockpiled forages, while others have begun to be fed stored feed. Final hay harvesting is being completed. Due to poor soil moisture conditions, small grains and cover crops are slow to emerge and grow. Corn harvest is behind as producers wait for grain moisture to drop to eliminate drying costs. Soybeans are beginning to be harvested. Water supplies (springs/wells) continue to become non-productive.

an occasional meeting. Wheat acreage may be down due to input cost, price uncertainty and lateness of soybean crop.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn harvest is about over. Producers are concerned about low prices and high input costs. Soybean harvest is gearing up and lots of early beans have been harvested. Yields are average to below average for full season beans. Double crop harvest will begin this week and yields are expected to be better than average. Producers are making corn hybrid decisions now for 2009 as suppliers are making some early booking deals. Wheat planting continues and is ahead of normal. Weather has been good for wheat planting, but has slowed some due to showers, wind and cold weather. Land prep continues for small grain planting. Cover crop planting is also in full swing.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soybean harvest is getting in gear after a late start. Soil moisture is adequate. Pastures and hayfields are looking good going into winter. There is some stockpiled fescue, but hay will probably be in short supply this winter. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up their pumpkin fields and planting cover crops in addition to cutting fall greens. Small grains are up and growing. There are still many acres to plant once the soybeans are harvested. Most cover crops following corn have been planted.

SOUTHWESTERN

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

Rainfall for this year is just over 30 inches. The yearly average is slightly over 50 inches. We could see another year with a 14-16 inch below average.

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Winter grain crops are in desperate need of precipitation due to the recent above normal temperatures and little rainfall.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

It has turned somewhat dry, but there is still enough moisture for no-till wheat. The soybean harvest is progressing but most of the bean harvest will take place after planting wheat. So the completion of the bean harvest is 10 days to 2 weeks off. This will be a late harvest. Still a corn field here and there, but corn harvest is 99 percent complete. Farmers are working on combines, planters, taking soil samples and attending

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Frost and snow have all but ended the hay season. Ground water is low. Creeks and Springs are drying up making it difficult to water livestock in upper grazing pastures.