

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY  
(continued)**

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

**SOUTHERN**

**PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)**

Producers are currently in the middle of planting wheat. Early soybeans are being harvested and soybean harvest should be in full swing in the next week or two. Producers had a decent fall cutting of hay.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Showers during election week slowed field work. Peanut harvest mostly complete with yields and grades slightly below

average. Cotton yields also low in areas that did not get showers. Small grain being seeded and soybeans cut. Deer season!

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Overcast, rainy weather slowed soybean harvest. Wheat planting continues with fewer acres because of lower wheat prices and high fertilizer costs. Farmers continue to mow ditch banks, and do minor tillage before winter arrives.

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



**Week of: November 3 – 9, 2008**

**Number: 35**

**Released: November 10, 2008**

**CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 9, 2008**

Parts of the Commonwealth experienced rain, while other parts of the State continued to suffer from dry conditions. Days suitable for field work were 5.4. The corn harvest progressed well, only 7 percent of the crop remains to be harvested. The soybean harvest is about two weeks behind schedule. Some farmers reported that the beans are slow to dry. Hay stocks may be sufficient this year if good weather continues to allow livestock to graze. Farmers are becoming cautiously optimistic with feed and fuel prices decreasing. Other farming activities included cleaning up vegetable fields, renewing pesticide licenses, planting wheat, and hunting deer.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 9, 2008	12	25	61	2
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	19	35	35	3
Livestock	2	5	22	57	14
Hay, Other	5	15	47	32	1
Hay, Alfalfa	1	20	38	37	4
Soybeans	4	23	38	26	6
Barley	0	0	51	46	3
Cotton	0	5	40	45	10
Oats	0	0	49	51	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	93	89	100	96
Soybeans Harvested	41	34	71	58
Winter Wheat Seeded	60	49	73	66
Winter Wheat Emerged	32	16	34	23
Peanuts Combined	94	86	99	95
Cotton Harvested	68	61	89	67
Winter Apples Harvested	99	90	98	98
Oats for Grain Seeded	92	89	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF November 2 - 8, 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 8	Mar. 1 to Nov 8 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	68	47	76	42	57	7	3928	3890	0.15	4.52	-3.55	24.27	-13.65
Norfolk	64	54	71	42	59	4	4686	4381	1.38	12.27	3.93	34.08	-6.49
Richmond	68	53	75	44	61	9	4567	4240	0.41	7.67	-0.75	42.41	3.86
Roanoke	69	48	78	42	59	8	4184	NA	0.03	4.10	-3.78	29.05	-8.19
Wash/Dulles	65	51	72	45	58	9	3934	NA	0.15	8.65	0.57	39.27	2.91

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (500)); where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \* Normal based on 8971-2000 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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#### NORTHERN

##### CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Moderate weather and timely rains support continued accumulation of winter forage. Crop harvest is progressing very well for this time of year.

##### FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)

Rains have been adequate. Corn and soybean harvest have been uneventful. Stockpiles and pastures are in excellent condition as are small grain fields.

#### CENTRAL

##### AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Warm weather and adequate moisture conditions have provided good growing conditions for pastures. Livestock are continuing to graze. Harvested hay stocks are good for most producers depending on how much longer the livestock can graze.

##### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Improved soil moisture has greened up pastures and hayfields going in to winter. Cover crops and small grains are also looking good. Farmers are still not harvesting soybeans extensively. Beans are very slow to dry down and cure out this year. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up plastic row covers, tilling some fields, and planting winter cover crops.

#### EASTERN

##### ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

Rain caused by a low pressure system this week delayed soybean harvest and wheat planting. Farmers took the time to empty soybean trucks and work on planting and harvesting equipment. There is much concern about what 2009 will bring with the economical downturn, grain and soybean prices, and the price of inputs. Most farmers voted in the election. Yields of soybeans average at best. Seed size is small. Planning for

winter meetings. Farmers started receiving notices on need to renew pesticide license by end of year.

##### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain showers have limited field work for this week. Some full season and double crop soybeans were harvested this week and yields are average to above average. Cover crop planting continues as well as some wheat planting. Producers are making decisions on fertilizer and seed purchases for next year, as well as, soil sampling and doing some spruce up around the farm. Once the rain lets up, producers will be hurrying to finish soybean harvest. The weather can really slow things down especially if there has been no freezing weather. Most areas received a killing frost last week so harvest should continue as the weather allows.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

All crops are in need of precipitation; however, the dry conditions have been favorable for sowing last of winter grains and harvesting of hay.

##### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Favorable weather conditions are in the near forecast, with moderate rain being predicted. Any rain will be beneficial, as more concerns arise over wells and springs beginning to go dry. Lower feed and fuel prices have most farmers cautiously optimistic.

##### TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Livestock watering systems are drying up. Wells are getting muddy. Springs are going dry. What little rain received has been soaked up by plants.