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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Week of: Nov 6-Nov 12, 2006**

**Number: 36**

**Released: Nov 13, 2006**

## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 12, 2006

This week was rainy and warm for most areas of the Commonwealth. Days suitable for field work were 4.1. Above-normal precipitation produced an average of 2 inches of rain across the state, with warmer-than-normal temperatures. The average high temperature this week was 77 degrees, and average lows were around 30 degrees. The rain and unseasonably warm temperatures were excellent for fall grazing and small grain development; however, soggy field conditions hindered harvest efforts for yet another week. Farmers continued small grain plantings when the weather permitted. Grain prices have captured producers' attention over the last few weeks, perhaps influencing planting decisions. The soybean harvest also continued this week. Yields are reported to be fair to good in many areas. Vegetable producers are picking the last of their tomatoes, disking plant residues, and covering strawberries. Late vegetable harvests continued for greens, winter squash, and broccoli. Other farm activities this week included repairing barns and equipment, attending meetings, marketing and weaning calves, breeding sheep, and building fences.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 15, 2006	0	2	82	16
October 22, 2006	0	2	82	16
October 29, 2006	0	1	77	22
November 5, 2006	0	1	84	15
November 12, 2006	0	1	74	25

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**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 12, 2006**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	78	30	51	3	1.58	0.91	3
Warrenton	75	32	53	5	2.26	1.42	3
Winchester 7 SE	75	29	51	5	2.00	1.23	3
Dale Enterprises	75	31	50	4	1.63	0.95	4
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	80	29	52	5	2.09	1.39	3
Roanoke AP	79	32	56	7	1.00	0.23	3
Waynesboro	76	31	51	6	2.56	1.83	3
Staunton AG	76	33	52	6	1.61	0.88	3
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	76	32	55	5	2.43	1.53	3
Piedmont Res ST	77	33	55	6	3.24	2.35	3
Bremo Bluff	82	25	54	5	1.66	0.84	2
Richmond AP	79	35	59	8	1.75	0.98	3
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	74	36	56	3	1.57	0.88	2
Wallops Island	73	35	57	4	0.71	0.05	2
Williamsburg	78	33	57	5	1.97	1.17	4
Keysville	78	26	54	4	2.45	1.68	2
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	77	23	51	6	0.80	0.10	2
Wytheville	76	23	49	5	1.46	0.83	3
Saltville	75	26	51	4	1.87	1.17	4
Richlands	75	29	51	10	1.35	0.57	3
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	80	28	55	6	1.39	0.55	3
Danville AG	79	25	53	2	2.00	1.23	2
Chatham	78	20	51	3	1.57	0.76	2
Martinsville	79	20	51	3	1.77	1.00	3
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	77	38	60	6	2.86	2.23	3
Oceana	77	36	60	4	1.73	1.03	2
Emporia	77	28	56	6	2.16	1.33	3
Newport News	80	36	61	8	0.92	0.29	2

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
Livestock	0	3	18	61	18
Other Hay	2	14	31	44	9
Alfalfa Hay	4	16	23	42	15
Winter Wheat	0	3	33	56	8
Barley	0	0	34	56	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	92	87	100	98
Winter Wheat Seeded	64	56	72	68
Winter Wheat Emerged	39	29	0	23
Soybeans Harvested	55	42	69	62
Peanuts Combined	94	89	99	96
Cotton Harvested	70	57	74	71
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	80	86	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	22	32	NA	NA
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	85	88	NA	NA

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

#### HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Calf marketing and weaning, sheep breeding, fence building and barn repairs are chief activities. Mid-week rain showers kept moisture levels adequate. Most producers are finishing up fall chores and preparing for winter and hunting season.

#### CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Grain farmers are combining soybeans, finishing up wheat planting and planting cover crops. Moisture conditions are excellent after widespread rains over the weekend, but this will slow the soybean harvest which is nearing completion. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up their planting beds, sorting out the last of their tomatoes, winter squash and other products, disking down plant residues, and covering strawberries.

#### ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Significant rains this week again delayed soybean harvest and wheat planting. Tomato fields are still being cleaned up and one or two corn fields have not yet been harvested. Farmers have spent time working on equipment, attending meetings and voting. Farmers are also optimistic because of higher prices holding up in the grain markets. A good long week of dry weather is needed so farmers can continue the harvest and seed fall grain crops on time.

#### VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann):

Wet, damp weather has slowed soybean harvest. Three additional inches of rain fell over the weekend.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

### **MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):**

Pricing of inputs for 2007 crops has begun. Grain pricing for next year and year after has gained even more interest during the past week. Producers are making decisions on how much corn vs. soybeans to plant. Planning for winter production meetings continues. Rain during the week shut down combines for 2-3 days due to moisture concerns. Soybean yields still fair to very good in most areas. Group 5 soybeans did well this year with help from TD Ernesto. Wheat and cover crop planting continued and is winding down. Soil sampling and lime spreading continues.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):**

Some late corn harvest and soybean harvest continued as well as small grain seeding. Over an inch of rain on Wednesday stopped field work. Some late vegetable harvest continues for greens and broccoli.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):**

We have been fortunate to receive adequate rainfall for the past few weeks, though it has caused some problems in harvesting the last bits of hay and silage.

### **SMYTH COUNTY (Walter Robinson):**

It seems that several farmers are planning on holding calves and even yearlings over to spring hoping for a rebound in the market. It could happen due to the opening of the Korean border, and perhaps some herd rebuilding in drought stricken areas if they get rain.

### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):**

Soybeans are being harvested and small grains planted. Control of winter weeds is underway for some producers. Plans are being made for the spring. Deer season is on the agenda for most folks in Brunswick. Late-fall and early-winter meetings are starting to be advertised to producers as well.

### **ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):**

Farmers continued to harvest soybeans and plant wheat and cover crops as the weather allowed. Soybean harvest has progressed well, but two significant rain storms during the week have led to saturated soil conditions which will cause some harvest problems on the rest of the crop. Soybean yields have been quite variable, but overall the crop should be average or slightly better. Soil sampling was also active during the period.

### **SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):**

Weather conditions have not been favorable this past week with multiple showers about every other day. As a result, a lot of cover crops have been delayed in planting. Corn still stands in wet fields, ready to be picked if weather permits. Some snow accumulations were observed yesterday in high altitudes.

### **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY (John Welsh):**

Wet field conditions continue to delay grain harvest. This moisture coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures has made for excellent fall grazing and small grain growth. Soybean grain yields are varied while corn grain yields have been average to good.

### **SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):**

Rain is still causing harvest delays. Surry had 2 inches on 11/12/06 on some land that was just beginning to dry. We need dry weather to complete peanut, cotton, and soybean harvest, and small grain seeding.



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