

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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



NATIONAL
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USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week of: November 10 – 16, 2008

Number: 36

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 16, 2008

It was a rainy and windy week for the Commonwealth. The rain helped to replenish soil moisture but slowed field work. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.4. Small grains and cover crops improved with the cool, wet conditions. Modest progress was made on the soybean harvest; however, the harvest still remains about two weeks behind normal for this time of year. Farmers have almost completed the peanut harvest. The cotton harvest is on schedule. Growers in Suffolk County report a bumper cotton crop. Farmers are closely watching grain prices, fuel cost, and fertilizer prices to see if it will be profitable to fertilize and harvest this year's cover crops for grain. Other farming activities included shredding corn stocks, taking soil samples, and hunting deer.

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TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 16, 2008	11	15	67	7
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

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	11	20	34	33	2
Livestock	1	4	23	64	8
Hay, Other	10	24	38	27	1
Hay, Alfalfa	5	15	28	46	6
Soybeans	5	18	33	36	8
Barley	0	2	46	50	2
Oats	0	0	54	44	2

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF November 9 - 15, 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 15	Mar. 1 to Nov 15 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	55	37	68	25	46	-2	3946	3929	2.34	1.61	6.86	26.61	-11.95
Norfolk	62	48	77	42	55	2	4736	4429	2.29	1.59	14.56	36.37	-4.95
Richmond	61	43	77	32	52	2	4611	4288	1.69	0.97	9.36	44.10	4.73
Roanoke	56	41	65	30	49	0	4207	NA	0.87	0.13	4.97	29.92	-7.95
Wash/Dulles	56	38	75	26	47	0	3956	NA	1.18	0.41	9.83	40.45	3.34

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 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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CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	96	93	100	98
Soybeans Harvested	55	41	82	70
Winter Wheat Seeded	72	60	86	78
Winter Wheat Emerged	46	32	39	31
Peanuts Combined	98	94	100	99
Cotton Harvested	73	68	94	77
Oats for Grain Seeded	98	92	NA	NA

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Recent rains are helping to restore ground water reserves. Hay harvesting has come to an end. Livestock grazing pastures and fenced hayfields continues. Some producers are beginning to supplement pasture with hay. Cattle are in good condition.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Recent rainfall has improved soil moisture. Small grain crops are looking good. More rain is needed to improve groundwater supplies. Pastures and hayfield conditions are looking much improved from mid to late summer drought. Grain farmers are combining soybeans and planting cover and small grain crops. Summer vegetable and fall pumpkin fields have been cleaned up and most cover crops are planted. Winter greens are still being harvested.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Warmer than normal temperatures and moderate rainfall are giving pastures some color and re-growth. Farmers are finishing cleaning vegetable fields and tobacco growers are getting ready for stripping and grading. Cattle producers are readying for upcoming premium assured heifer sale on November 29th.

SOUTHEASTERN

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Most of the cotton and peanuts have been harvested. Farmers are busy shredding stocks, planting cover crops, taking soil samples, and hunting deer. The rain has slowed field work, but was a relief for topsoil moisture. Fertilizer price might contribute to a decrease in winter grains. By December or January, farmers will have to decide to fertilize the cover crops if they want to harvest it for grain.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

A lot of wheat was planted this week. Soybean harvest continues for some while many have completed their harvest. As of Thursday, rain will slow field work until next week.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Right now is about the time farmers begin harvesting soybeans. However, they have been busy harvesting peanuts and cotton. We received heavy rains for several days this week. Farmers hope that the ground dries out so they can harvest the rest of the cotton. The cotton is a bumper crop. The farmers are in a hurry to get it harvested before the cotton drops out of the boll.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Soybean harvest is slow due to 5 inches of rain during the last two weeks.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rainy and wet conditions have halted most activities on the farm. Some soybeans were harvested during the week but harvest conditions were not good. Some wheat is still being planted as well as some cover crops. Soybean yields continue to be average to above average in late planted beans. Planning for next year's crops continues as producers make decisions on seed and fertilizer. High input costs and low commodity prices are major concerns for producers and many are looking for ways to improve their production efficiency. Fields will likely be sloppy after this rain, depending on amounts, and will slow soybean harvest.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

Widespread rainfall certainly helped winter grains, hay and pasture fields.

Soybeans Harvested

