

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY
(continued)**

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

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers were not able to harvest many soybeans this week because of moisture in beans. More rain/snow began falling this Friday. Most of our soybean crop is harvested and wheat acreage planted. The first cold snap arrived this week with temperatures dipping just below freezing.

SUFFOLK CITY (Rex Cotton)

Wetter soils are drying out and farmers were able to get on those fields. We hope for clear weather for several days so they can continue to harvest soybean and continue to plant small grains.

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



Week of: November 17 – 23, 2008

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23, 2008

It was a cold week for Virginia. Precipitation came in the form of rain and snow. Parts of Smyth county reported up to 5 inches of snow. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. The soybean harvest continues to lag behind normal. In some areas, grain producers are waiting for the soybeans to dry out before completing the harvest. The majority of cover crops are in good condition. Throughout the state, subsoil moisture is becoming a concern. Wells and springs have not fully recovered from summer's dry weather. If Virginia does not receive more moisture, farmers worry that small grains will suffer. Virginia's livestock are being switched over to winter feed. Some cattlemen have just begun supplementing their livestock, while others have completely switched over. Other farming activities included repairing farm equipment, planting wheat, attending meetings, and hunting deer.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 23, 2008	10	22	65	3
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

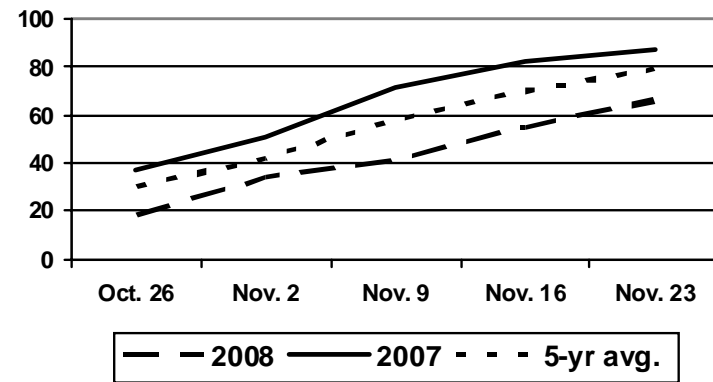
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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	22	31	38	1
Livestock	0	3	18	68	11
Hay, Other	6	22	38	33	1
Hay, Alfalfa	5	14	21	54	6
Barley	0	0	36	60	4
Oats	0	0	44	54	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	66	55	87	79
Winter Wheat Seeded	81	72	89	86
Winter Wheat Emerged	66	46	61	45
Cotton Harvested	81	73	99	85

Soybeans Harvested



VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF November 16 - 22, 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 22	Mar. 1 to Nov 22 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to Date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	41	25	48	15	33	-13	3946	3959	0.00	6.86	-2.66	26.61	-12.52
Norfolk	46	33	55	26	40	-12	4741	4470	0.02	14.58	4.86	36.39	-5.43
Richmond	47	30	55	24	39	-9	4616	4328	0.00	9.36	-0.49	44.10	4.01
Roanoke	41	28	47	23	35	-12	4207	NA	0.00	4.97	-4.40	29.92	-8.93
Wash/Dulles	42	28	48	22	35	-9	3956	NA	0.00	9.83	0.20	40.45	2.65

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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WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Jon Repair)

Corn and soybean harvest has been delayed due to the recent rains. Hay production is finishing up as producers continue to cut late hay to be utilized as haylage. Most livestock are near full winter feeding as forage production diminishes. Some livestock are utilizing stockpiled forages. Water sources continue to be a key issue as springs, wells and ponds become less and less productive.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William W. Seay)

Some livestock are grazing. A few producers have begun to feed a limited amount of hay.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Cattle producers are feeding hay and making feed purchases for the upcoming winter season. Small grains look good but need more moisture. Farmers are still cautious regarding fertilizer prices and use has been limited waiting on prices to decline.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is generally adequate. Pastures and hayfields look pretty good going into winter. Soybean harvest is about 70-75% completed. Yields overall are a little below average at around 30 bushels per acre. In some areas full-season soybeans did better and in others double-crop beans yielded more. As always it depended on where the unusually scarce rains fell. Small grains and cover crops are looking good right now. Hopefully we will have adequate precipitation over the winter to keep soil moisture up and to replenish the groundwater. Streams and ponds are still well below normal.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)

All soybeans ready to harvest as soon as weather and bean moisture permits. Wheat acreage will be down quite a bit. Some planted wheat late due to late soybean harvest. Most soybean yields average to below average. Many fields in the 20 to 30 bushel range. Farmers delaying pricing and prepay of some inputs due to next year's market uncertainty. Farmers are cleaning up corn fields for next year, planting wheat, working on equipment, applying lime and fertilizer for wheat crop.

SOUTHWESTERN

LEE (Harold Jerrell)

Colder temperatures this week, are below normal with traces of snow.

SMYTH (Walter Robinson)

We had anywhere from 1 to 5 inches of snow in the county.

SOUTHERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

The first snow came blowing in last week, but did not stay around too long. Harvest has been going on pretty steady this past week. Quite a few folks are deer hunting as well.