



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



Week of: November 24 – 30, 2008

Number: 38

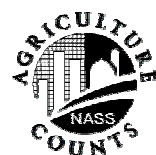
Released: December 1, 2008

CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2008

It was a cool and wet week for the Commonwealth. Most of Virginia experienced about 1 to 2 inches of rain during the later part of the week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. The soybean harvest was delayed because of the rain. Twenty-two percent of the soybean crop remains to be harvested. In some places, farmers with no on-farm grain storage could not unload trucks as the local elevators were filled with soybeans late last week. The majority of the winter crops are in fair to good condition. Winter wheat is slow to emerge due to cold temperatures. Frost and snow have quickly diminished pastureland as a source of forage. Most cattlemen have switched over to supplemental feed. Other farming activities included spreading lime, taking soil samples, maintaining farm equipment, and planting cover crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 30, 2008	4	20	61	15
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

National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P. O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



Address Service Requested

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	8	22	40	28	2
Livestock	2	6	28	58	6
Hay, Other	5	21	48	25	1
Hay, Alfalfa	1	12	31	51	5
Barley	0	0	41	55	4
Oats	0	0	44	55	1

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF November 23 - 29, 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 29	Mar. 1 to Nov 29 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to Date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	49	27	55	19	38	-6	3952	3980	0.62	7.48	-2.76	27.23	-12.81
Norfolk	52	32	62	23	42	-8	4753	4501	0.45	15.03	4.67	36.84	-5.50
Richmond	53	31	59	20	42	-4	4630	4356	0.38	9.74	-0.73	44.48	3.68
Roanoke	51	31	60	23	41	-3	4217	NA	0.44	5.41	-4.60	30.36	-9.06
Wash/Dulles	47	24	52	18	36	-6	3957	NA	0.12	9.95	0.41	40.57	1.94

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.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

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

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	78	66	94	88
Winter Wheat Seeded	87	81	97	93
Winter Wheat Emerged	71	66	78	NA
Cotton Harvested	90	81	100	92

CENTRAL

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

A limited amount of corn is still in the field for producers who do not have drying capability. Dark tobacco producers are preparing their tobacco for market. Some moldboard plowing has started for next year's tobacco crop. Producers continue to express frustration over fertilizer prices and trying to make plans for 2009.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soybean producers are still harvesting beans. Recent rains have slowed harvest. Farmers are still planting some late cover crops as late soybean harvest continues. Soil moisture continues to be fair. Small grain crops, pastures and hayfields have responded to recent rains and are looking good.

EASTERN

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain at week's end stopped soybean harvest. Harvest may continue early next week. Yields continue to be average to above. Quality of double crop beans is very good. Prices for commodities are still unstable and don't offer many profitable opportunities in the near future. Farm supply purchases are moving forward. Prices for inputs in 2009 are scary. Soil sampling, planting cover crops, lime application, maintenance and fix-up, and soybean harvest are the activities of the week. Winter production meetings and seed company meetings are being held and planned.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

The Scott County Virginia Premium Assured heifer sale was successful, with an average price of approximately \$1,050 per head.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Very little fall grazing left due to frost and snow.

SOUTHERN

PITTSYLVANIA (Stephen Barts, Jamie Stowe)

Soybean harvest is coming to a close. Burley stripping is progressing nicely. Pastures that were stockpiled are looking good, as well as cool season forages that were planted to extend the grazing season.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Soybean harvest made good progress this week. Farmers with no on-farm storage could not unload trucks as the local elevator was filled with soybeans late last week. Over 1 inch of rain on Sunday will slow the combines return to the field to finish harvest. Wheat planted during the last three weeks is slow to emerge with the cold temperatures. Wheat acres are expected to be back to average this year after a large increase for the 2008 crop.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Wet weather slowed harvest of the remaining soybeans. About 2 inches of rain fell over the weekend.

Soybeans Harvested

