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United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States Department of Agriculture



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

**Week of: Nov. 26 – Dec. 2, 2007**      **Number: 39**      **Released: Dec. 3, 2007**

## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 2007

The Commonwealth experienced typical autumn weather this week. Days suitable for work were 6.3. Topsoil moisture was generally short this week. Pastures and hayfields have shown little regrowth in most areas. Many producers who haven't already begun feeding livestock have started this week. Livestock are still being culled heavily at most stockyards. The soybean harvest continued as it is very close to completion with yields being reported as average. Small grain planting also continued while some producers have begun top-dressing winter wheat. Other activities this week included drying grain, cleaning up harvesting and planting equipment, and beginning to attend pesticide re-certification classes.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December 2, 2007	19	45	36	0
November 25, 2007	29	39	31	1
November 18, 2007	20	35	45	0
November 11, 2007	12	35	52	1
November 4, 2007	15	32	52	1



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	35	33	26	6	0
Livestock	4	12	31	44	9
Other Hay	57	19	16	8	0
Alfalfa Hay	32	23	30	15	0
Winter Wheat	1	2	37	58	2
Barley	0	1	40	53	6

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 2007**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/ 2/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Nov. 17	Mar. 1 to Nov. 17 Normal *	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	55	32	61	25	43	0	4285	3938	0.23	0.00	0.00	34.13	-6.02
Norfolk	58	39	71	32	48	-1	4905	4440	0.01	0.00	0.00	30.33	-12.38
Richmond	57	35	67	29	46	1	4841	4299	0.04	0.00	0.00	34.48	-6.56
Roanoke	56	36	61	29	46	2	4687	NA	0.09	0.00	0.00	27.20	-12.80
Wash/Dulles	53	34	61	27	43	2	4379	NA	0.18	0.00	0.00	24.06	-14.74

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86<sup>o</sup>) + daily minimum (50<sup>o</sup>))/2-50<sup>o</sup>; where 86<sup>o</sup> is used if the maximum exceeds 86<sup>o</sup> and 50<sup>o</sup> is used if the minimum falls below 50<sup>o</sup>.

2/ No further data for growing degree days.

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

N.A. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	96	88	84	84
Winter Wheat Emerged	81	69	74	42
Beef Cattle Forage	21	23	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage	10	9	NA	NA
Sheep Forage	43	46	NA	NA

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

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

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Soybean harvest is winding down. Producers continued working with crop insurance adjusters on claims. Soil sampling was active and some producers applied fertilizer and pesticides to small grains. Producers attended private pesticide applicator recertification workshops and grower meetings and continued making corn and soybean seed orders for 2008.

**WESTERN**

**HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Main activities this week included fence repair, wood cutting, deer and bear hunting, and feeding livestock. Most producers started feeding this week if they had not already. Feed supplies are on the short side for most operations. Moisture this week was mainly rain showers over several days and topped out over an inch for the week.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Hunting season is in full swing. Some folks are still trying to get small grains and some grass in the ground. The lack of rain is hurting the crops still. Some lime is still being spread along with some fertilizer. Hay is going quickly as pastures are not recovering as hoped. A little rain on Sunday night was nice but more is needed.

**CENTRAL**

**CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Farmers continue to dry and market corn and soybeans, as prices remain strong. Grain producers are top-dressing small grain fields and storing, planting and harvesting equipment. Farmers are also attending meetings, ordering seed and supplies for next spring and hunting.

**NORTHERN**

**ROCKINGHAM (Amber D. Vallotton)**

In spite of some scattered rainfall this past week, Rockingham County continues to be quite dry going into the winter months. We need significant rainfall during these next several months to build up our low soil water reserves for spring plantings.

**This is the last weekly report for the 2007 season.**