

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW2603

September 29, 2003

Corn Harvest Increases

The week after Hurricane Isabel was spent surveying crop damage and repairing damaged farm buildings. Air temperatures cooled slightly to the 70's for highs and the 60's for lows. Rain in the early part of the week resulted in **3.9 days suitable for field work** for the week ending September 28, 2003. **Corn silage** harvest increased 20 percent to 58 percent, well behind last year and the five-year average. **Corn** for grain harvest increased last week with 20 percent harvested, 43 percent behind last year and 20 percent behind the five-year average. Lodging in corn is very prevalent in many counties which may result in a slower harvest pace. Some yield losses are anticipated, but large losses are not expected.

Many **soybean** fields are turning color and starting to drop their leaves. Harvest is at least three to four weeks away. **Sorghum** fields are turning color fast and over 25 percent are mature. Sorghum harvest should begin in the next week or two. Small grains are starting to be seeded, specifically **barley** and **rye**. **Tobacco** harvest is making good progress with 80 percent harvested. Farmers are on their fourth cutting of **alfalfa** and **other hay**. **Apple** harvest continues with 35 percent harvested, 28 percent behind last year and 11 percent behind the five-year average.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	35	28	63	46
Corn Silage	58	38	95	81
Corn for grain	20	9	63	40
Lima Beans (Processed)	79	67	64	81
Tobacco	80	65	99	96
Crop Progress:				
Corn, mature	75	44	94	84
Soybeans, coloring	33	10	81	61
Soybeans, dropping leaves	7	2	50	33
Sorghum, coloring	72	36	72	80
Sorghum, mature	29	5	40	39
Hay Harvested:				
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	30	14	70	68
Other Hay 4 th Cutting	26	5	31	51

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	10	17	23	36	14
Soybeans	7	18	25	32	18
Sorghum	18	9	38	23	12
Pasture	2	5	23	47	23

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	59	41
Topsoil (2002)	7	52	40	1
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	59	41
Subsoil (2002)	40	40	20	-

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