

MD-CW2803

October 14, 2003

### Dry Weather at Last

Weather conditions the last several days have been picture perfect for harvesting corn or making hay. There were **6.1 days suitable for field work** for the week ending October 12, 2003. Air temperatures were in the 70's for highs and the 50's for lows. Bright sunny skies and no measurable precipitation have allowed for farmers to rapidly increase their harvesting progress for corn, make good quality hay, plant small grains and prepare fields or farm equipment for the upcoming winter.

**Corn** for grain harvest is more than 50 percent complete and corn chopped for silage is 75 percent complete. Corn harvest should wrap up in the next two weeks. A few full-season **soybean** fields are being harvested. Most of the soybean crop is turning color and dropping their leaves. Fourth cutting of **alfalfa hay** is 54 percent complete, 31 percent behind last year and 30 percent behind the five-year average. Some farmers are starting a fifth cutting of alfalfa hay. **Other hay** is more than 55 percent complete. **Hay supplies** are rated 61 percent adequate, 26 percent short, and 13 percent very short. **Pasture** is in fair to good condition.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	64	50	70	71
Corn Silage	75	63	100	94
Corn for grain	51	32	75	62
Sorghum	40	20	29	35
Crop Progress:				
Soybeans, coloring	77	66	98	92
Soybeans, dropping leaves	43	27	76	70
Sorghum, mature	80	49	93	82
Tobacco, stripped	10	5	5	4
Small Grains Planted:				
Barley	24	21	67	54
Wheat	10	3	32	21
Hay Harvested:				
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	54	52	85	84
Alfalfa Hay 5 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	5	4	23	35
Other Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	57	39	57	77

### CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	6	14	22	42	16
Soybeans	5	14	22	37	22
Barley	-	-	66	34	-
Wheat	-	-	44	41	15
Pasture	2	6	18	50	24

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	6	77	17
Topsoil (2002)	4	18	68	10
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	82	18
Subsoil (2002)	21	47	32	-

Holly Smith  
Agricultural Statistician

Norman Bennett  
State Statistician

### Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through September 30, 2003

Published by

**The Maryland Agriculture Statistics Service**

50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 841-5740 Fax (410) 841-5755

a cooperative service of

**The Maryland Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service**  
and the University of Maryland Extension System

County	September 2003		Since April 1, 2003	
	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<b>Maryland</b>				
Allegany	8.8	5.7	30.0	13.5
Anne Arundel	7.5	4.0	30.9	14.5
Baltimore	8.3	4.4	31.2	12.6
Calvert	8.0	4.5	35.0	17.3
Caroline	6.9	3.4	30.9	13.4
Carroll	9.2	5.5	30.8	12.7
Cecil	10.0	6.4	32.4	14.8
Charles	7.6	3.9	32.5	14.7
Dorchester	8.4	5.0	33.1	16.1
Frederick	10.3	6.6	34.4	16.2
Garrett	1/	1/	1/	1/
Harford	10.4	6.4	36.7	17.3
Howard	7.6	3.0	27.7	9.6
Kent	7.9	4.2	32.4	14.3
Montgomery	8.9	5.2	33.5	15.4
Prince George's	8.1	4.5	34.1	16.2
Queen Anne's	6.3	2.6	30.9	13.0
Somerset	6.2	2.4	24.7	6.7
St. Mary's	8.6	5.1	34.8	17.1
Talbot	5.9	2.4	30.1	12.2
Washington	9.0	5.6	30.4	13.4
Wicomico	7.0	3.3	27.4	9.5
Worcester	6.4	2.9	24.8	7.2
<b>Delaware</b>				
New Castle	8.3	4.7	31.3	13.7
Kent	5.4	1.5	33.4	12.6
Sussex	6.1	2.5	26.6	8.7

Source: National Weather Service

<sup>1/</sup> Data is unavailable