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FOR WEEK OF: October 18 - October 24

GENERAL

The week had varied conditions of weather with rain, warm days and cool nights. Wet weather hampered harvesting and planting in several parts of the state.

Temperatures: We had a nice fall warm-up this week. The state average temperature of 55 degrees was up four degrees from last week. An exception was the Eastern Panhandle where readings were actually below normal. There were a couple of very chilly nights during the week. Belington, Marlinton and Elkins had over night lows below 30 degrees. The highest temperature was 76 degrees in Williamson and Huntington. The lowest temperature was 28 degrees in Belington.

Precipitation: Precipitation was up as well. Every site was above normal for the week. Four locations had totals over two inches. Several other sites were above 1.50 inches. The bulk of the rain fell Monday and Tuesday. The state average precipitation for the week was 1.57 inches.

Number of days suitable for fieldwork averaged 4.0 last week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	PERCENT			
Current				
Week	--	--	88	12
Last				
Week	--	6	89	5
Last				
Year	--	1	87	12

Farm activities included harvesting corn, silage, apples and pumpkins, plowing and planting cover crops, cleaning and repairing equipment, finishing up hay, stripping tobacco, preparing calves for market and field evaluations after recent flooding.

FRUIT

Apple harvesting was 85 percent complete compared with 85 percent in 2003. No comparison data is available for the 5-yr. average.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	PERCENT				
Cattle & Calves	--	1	13	79	7
Sheep & Lambs	--	1	8	77	14
Pasture	1	11	23	54	11
Corn	--	4	19	38	39
Soybeans	--	1	8	38	53
Wheat	--	--	19	81	--

GRAINS

Corn conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most fields were estimated as good to excellent. Fields were 94 percent matured compared with 76 percent in 2003 and 90 percent for the 5-yr. average. Corn was 62 percent harvested for grain with 26 percent in 2003 and 45 percent for the 5-yr. average. Soybean conditions ranged from poor to mostly excellent. The crop was 46 percent harvested compared with 48 percent in 2003 and 51 percent for the 5-yr. average. Wheat was 46 percent planted compared with 67 percent in 2003 and 62 percent for the 5-yr. average. Fields were 30 percent emerged compared to 45 percent last year and 33 percent for the 5-yr. average.

LIVESTOCK and PASTURE

Cattle conditions ranged from poor to excellent, but most herds were reported in good condition. Sheep conditions ranged from poor to excellent, with most flocks reported in good condition. Pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent, but most fields were reported as good.



HISTORICAL CROP PROGRESS

YEAR	CORN		SOYBEANS	WHEAT		APPLES
	MATURED	HARVESTED	HARVESTED	PLANTED	EMERGED	HARVESTED
2004	94	62	46	46	30	85
2003	76	26	48	67	45	85
5 YR AVG	90	45	51	62	33	NA

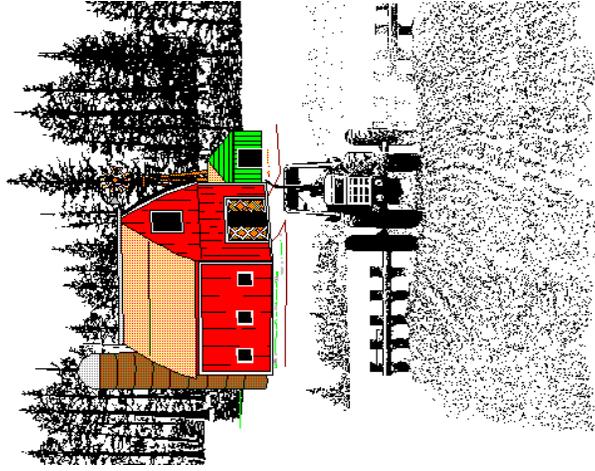
NA-Not Available.

INTERNET ACCESS: All National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports are now available free of charge on the Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

WEST VIRGINIA

CROP-WEATHER

BULLETIN



West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics

Top Soil Moisture: (with top-soil defined as the top 6 inches):

- Very Short - Soil moisture supplies are significantly less than what is required for normal plant development. Growth has been stopped or nearly so and plants are showing visible signs of moisture stress. Under these conditions, plants will quickly suffer irreparable damage.
- Short - Soil dry. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be curtailed.
- Adequate - Soil moist. Seed germination and/or crop growth and development would be normal or unhindered.
- Surplus - Soil wet. Fields may be muddy and will generally be unable to absorb additional moisture. Young, developing crops may be yellowing from excess moisture.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork: A 'suitable' day is one where weather and field conditions allowed producers to work in fields a major portion of that day.

Crop Progress Percents: Progress percents relate to acres and should indicate the progress of field activities or crop development. Generally, an acre should be considered in or beyond a phenological stage when 50 percent or more of the plants in that acre are in or beyond that stage.

General Crop Condition:

- Very Poor - Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure. Pastures provide very little or no feed considering the time of year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Poor - Heavy degree of loss to yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc. Pastures are providing only marginal feed for the current time of year. Some supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Fair - Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility, but the extent is unknown. Pastures are providing generally adequate feed, but still less than normal for the time of year.
- Good - Yield prospects are normal. Moisture levels are adequate and disease, insect damage, and weed pressures are minor. Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.
- Excellent - Yield prospects are above. Crops are experiencing little or no stress. Disease, insect damage, and weed pressures are insignificant. Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR THE WEEK ENDING 10-24-2004

STATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				SEASON NORM
	HIGH	LOW	WEEKLY AVERAGE	WEEKS DEPARTURE	TOTAL	WEEKS NORM	SINCE APRIL 1 ST		
							2004	2003	
--NORTHWEST--									
WHEELING	72	34	56		1.20		35.81	24.41	
PARKERSBURG	74	35	57	+ 3	2.34	0.63	31.20	37.93	23.19
CRESTON	74	33	55		1.70		35.25	33.02	
--NORTHCENTRAL--									
MORGANTOWN	70	46	56		1.16		29.65	42.57	
CLARKSBURG	70	31	55	+ 4	2.28	0.70	37.44	32.49	23.66
BELINGTON	70	28	55		1.72		34.82	35.08	
WESTON	74	42	58		1.02		35.73	42.87	
--SOUTHWEST--									
WILLIAMSON	76	43	62		1.94		35.57	32.36	
HUNTINGTON	76	39	59	+ 5	2.40	0.63	46.28	35.65	22.90
CHARLESTON	73	35	58	+ 5	1.92	0.59	35.79	31.61	23.52
RIPLEY	73	34	56		1.57		38.29	37.57	
--CENTRAL--									
TERRA ALTA	64	42	50		0.92		34.33	49.12	
ELKINS	68	29	54	+ 5	1.93	0.63	35.14	40.11	25.26
MARLINTON	65	25	52		1.65		31.03	37.02	
BECKLEY	69	31	56	+ 8	1.52	0.56	35.83	37.58	23.49
--SOUTHERN--									
PINEVILLE	70	36	59		2.04		35.32	44.84	
BLUEFIELD	70	36	57	+ 4	1.07	0.56	38.67	31.57	22.78
WHITE SUL SP	69	30	56		0.96		31.31	38.09	
FLAT TOP	69	31	55		1.53		33.89	37.75	
--NORTHEASTERN--									
MARTINSBURG	63	39	51	- 2	1.37	0.77	31.50	35.77	22.25
ROMNEY	61	35	50		1.05		27.90	34.05	
MOOREFIELD	62	32	50		1.31		25.27	35.86	

Source: Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service, Charleston, WV
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