

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week's rain brought the crops to life, all crops really started jumping and look so much better. Grass seed heads are full formed and some hay will not be of as good of quality that was hoped for earlier. Producers are working and weaning fall born calves.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Barley looks good and is ready for harvest. Wheat is 90% mature. Recent rains have limited field access and planting of cotton & peanuts. Planting of beans is progressing but slow due to field access. Side dressing corn continues. There has been insect pressure on cotton due to excessive moisture and cool conditions. Recent storms with some hail damage in the southern portion of the county.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann)

Light showers brought approximately .5 inches of rain, but soil is beginning to dry. Soybean planting continues at a rapid rate. Strawberry harvest is finished. It was a short harvest season so overall strawberry yields were low.



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**WEATHER
&
CROPS**



Week Ending: May 30, 2010

Number: 12

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 2010

Some areas in the state suffered from pea sized hail that damaged some fruits and vegetables. Other areas did not experience any precipitation causing another week of dry and humid conditions. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Dry weather conditions have lowered some hay yields with some yields reported to be down by as much as 50 percent from last year. Small grains are drying down with reporters expecting average yields. Corn is looking good and farmers are finishing up side dressing with nitrogen. Soybean planting continued while strawberry harvesting is just about finished.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 2, 2010	2	37	60	1
May 9, 2010	13	44	41	2
May 16, 2010	5	41	50	4
May 23, 2010	1	18	75	6
May 30, 2010	2	16	75	7



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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	9	33	50	7
Livestock	1	4	27	54	14
Hay, Other	2	13	40	39	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	2	31	51	16
Corn	0	3	24	60	13
Winter Wheat	1	4	31	60	4
Barley	1	4	35	56	4
Tobacco, Flue-cured	1	7	35	39	18
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	7	48	45	0
Peanuts	0	0	18	77	5
Cotton	0	2	20	75	3
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	25	75	0
Apples, All	5	3	70	18	4
Peaches	0	0	40	52	8
Grapes	0	8	35	45	12
Oats	0	6	53	41	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	97	92	90	95
Corn Emerged	81	76	80	83
Soybeans Planted	42	31	34	38
Soybeans Emerged	28	16	20	23
Barley Harvested	3	N/A	11	8
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	93	88	97	96
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	58	28	72	57
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	85	64	82	78
Peanuts Planted	84	63	82	90
Cotton Planted	98	87	95	97

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 30, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 29	Mar. 1 to May 29 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	81	61	91	56	71	6	1028	856	1.37	12.64	1.56	19.72	1.96
Norfolk	78	64	83	62	71	2	1144	921	0.28	11.45	0.55	19.47	1.28
Richmond	84	64	93	59	74	6	1210	966	0.87	10.38	-0.54	16.80	-0.70
Roanoke	82	63	90	61	72	6	1076	NA	1.02	8.75	-2.61	15.43	-2.30
Wash/Dulles	81	63	92	58	72	7	1034	NA	3.01	10.07	-0.53	16.62	-0.17

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

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NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Strong storms have done some damage to small grains with hail and high humidity impacting yield and grain quality.

CENTRAL

AMHERST (William Seay)

Pop-up storms are delaying hay harvest. Nutritional quality of this year's hay will be lower than in a normal season due to maturity of the hay crop.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Dark tobacco planting progressed rapidly last week. The rain received on Friday was very beneficial to the recently transplanted tobacco. Hay harvest continues between rain events. Farmers are getting combines ready for grain harvest.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are getting ready to harvest barley, and plant double-crop soybeans after barley. Vegetable farmers are harvesting greens, finishing strawberry harvest, planting summer crops, and getting ready to harvest blueberries. We have seen some problems in tomatoes and potatoes with late blight, which was a big problem last year.

FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Farmers are still finding hay yields to be 50% or so of last year's crop. The hay quality appears good. The second cutting will be a help if we continue to have rainfall through the traditionally dry summer.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

This was a good weather week. The little rain we had refreshed things nicely. Hay and small grain are still stunted due to the unseasonable dry weather of the spring. Hay yields are reported to be down across the area and grass stands are thinner than normal.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall amounts were relatively light this week, but we received enough to keep crops in decent to good shape up to this point. Farmers continued to sidedress corn with nitrogen and apply post-emergence herbicides to the crop. Barley harvest is just beginning and should be in full swing next week.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Barley harvest began as producers are hacking fields. Barley is dry and yields and quality are about average. Soybean planting is continuing with moisture holding up pretty well although a shower would be helpful. Corn looks great as producers are winding up sidedress with N applications. Veggies are enjoying the warmer temperatures.

SOUTHWESTERN

MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

A considerable portion of the county received heavy rainfall and pea-sized hail and localized flooding due to slow moving storms at week's end, so some grain and hay crops are lodging. Fruit and vegetable crops may have been affected as well (no reports yet).

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Soil temperature has become suitable for planting. Corn, soybeans, and pumpkins are going in the ground.

SOUTHERN

NOTTOWAY (Jimmy Gantt)

There was a substantial hail storm on May 27th significantly damaged approximately 15% of the flue tobacco crop in the county.